

School board approves team changes

New superintendent reorganizes district's structure

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

When Dr. Michael Meissen took the job as Plymouth-Canton's new superintendent last month, he told Board of Education members he would have a 90-day plan to enact his idea of the direction the district should take.

This week, he put in place the biggest piece of that plan to



"The idea organizationally is to try and put in place a leader-

ship system around the concept of a professional learning community," Meissen said. "In my mind, the organization

focuses on results for high levels of student achievement using a leadership structure that is collaborative and develops processes that deliver that high level of results.' Among the major changes:

» Finance chief Brodie Killian has been promoted to deputy superintendent of business and operations, and will now oversee the district's facilities and operations (such as maintenance and food service).

His right-hand, Vicki Amo-

re, has been named executive director of finance and accounting

It's the biggest change in scope among core team mem-bers. He said his familiarity with the budget will make the decision-making process easier in his new areas of responsibility.

"It will be added responsibility, but from a decision process, the fact I'm closest to the budget will help develop quicker decisions and provides us

the ability to push information back down to the directors,' Killian said.

» Monica Merritt, who had been executive director of human resources, has been promoted to assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations.

» Jeanne Farina had her title adjusted to assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. She had been assis-

See CHANGES, Page A2

City boosters step up to rescue ice fest



Veteran carver Ted Wakar of Canton Township has attended many ice festivals in Plymouth. FILE PHOTO



'Heroes' sought to back Memorial

Runs aim to raise money to honor first responders

> **By Matt Jachman** Staff Writer

A fundraiser to support Wayne County's First Responders Memorial will give ordinary citizens the chance to become heroes of a different sort

County officials, with assis-tance from Running Fit Inc., are planning the Heroes on Hines five-kilometer and halfmarathon races for Saturday, Oct. 5, in Hines Park. The runs will raise money for the First **Responders Memorial under** construction in the park and will be followed by an official memorial dedication.

Both races will begin and

Killian

The Plymouth Ice Festival typically draws large crowds to Kellogg Park, especially during live carving events. FILE PHOTO

Previous organizer out of touch, owes money

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

With the Plymouth Ice Festival's executive producer missing in action, bills from this year's event unpaid and no plans for a festival next year, downtown Plymouth boosters recently put together a team to organize a show for January 2014

Sam Walton, who produced four ice festivals beginning with the one in 2010, has not returned calls or emails in recent months, those who have worked with him say, and has outstanding debts from the 2013 festival, including a bill of around \$20,000 for city services, such as cleanup and public safety.

In Walton's absence, Tony Bruscato, operations director of the Downtown Development Authority, and Wes Graff, president of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, have enlisted people familiar with event production and fundraising to run the 32nd annual ice festival. The festival is planned for Kellogg Park and downtown streets for the second weekend in January.

They would rather Walton show up and lead the production, but "we felt we had to step in to make sure there was possibly going to be one," Bruscato said. He described his and Graff's role as "guiding the process," while others, including a fundraiser who previously worked with Walton, actually produce it.



Snowboarding has been an attraction at recent ice festivals in Plymouth; although some winter sports activities will be kept, organizers say they want the 2014 festival to focus on the ice carvings. FILE PHOTO

'Owes a lot'

Paul Raukar of Ice Dream Sculptures, where his wife, Tajana, is the chief ice-carver, said Walton owes him "a lot" of money for work they did for the 2013 show. Raukar said they made 65

single-block carvings for show sponsors. "He never paid us," for the 2013 show, Raukar said Friday. "We had some problems the year before," but eventually got paid, he added.

"We're just disappointed after all the work we did for him," Raukar said. "He doesn't return phone calls or anything anymore."

Raukar wouldn't say exactly how much he and his wife are owed. Calls to Walton Thursday and Friday went to voice mail and were not returned.

Bruscato said the festival is an important event for downtown business owners, bringing people in during what is normally a slow retail month. He said he and Graff are confident the show will go on

"We wouldn't make this effort if we didn't think we could actually pull off an ice festival," he said. The 2014 festival's budget will depend on fundraising, Bruscato said, estimating that a minimum of \$75,000 will be needed to stage "a really good festival."

Back to basics

Organizers, Bruscato said, want to get back to the basics of ice sculptures "so that when people get to the park, they'll be wowed by some of the spectacular sculptures." Some of the non-icecarving activities, Bruscato said, could be dropped.

Bob Parent, owner of Sun and Snow, the downtown sporting goods shop, applauded the efforts toward a 2014 show and said his business "will do anything and everything we can to promote it.' Sun and Snow has been a major festival sponsor, particularly of its winter sports events, like a cross country skiing course.

"The last guy that did it, we haven't heard from," Parent said. "We were concerned."

See ICE FEST, Page A2

end at Hines Drive and Hag-gerty Road, where the memorial is being built, and the course, in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Northville, will include areas not normally open for events. An honor guard of public safety personnel and vehicles will line the course for its last mile.

The long run

The memorial, long sought by Robert Ficano, the county executive and a former county sheriff, is being built to honor

See MEMORIAL, Page A2

Downtown bar could reopen with new owners

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A downtown Plymouth bar and restaurant that closed more than six months ago under the threat of having its liquor license revoked could reopen, under new ownership and management, within a couple of months

Jim and Jennifer Dales of Northville are planning to buy the former Rock Bar and Grill on Penniman and reopen it as The Post Plymouth Bistro, which would be a casual drinking and dining spot with a locally sourced menu, according to information filed with the city.

The Daleses will appear Monday before both the city's Liquor License Review Committee and the City Commission, which has a say on the

See BAR, Page A2



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INDEX

Health

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Community	Life		
Crossword F	^D uzz	e	

contracting Line mining way	
Crossword Puzzle C2	Jobs
Education A4	Obituaries
Health B9	

C3 Sports.... **C1** Wheels **B8 C3**

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B1

LOCAL NEWS

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Pooch parlor pairs pets, owners

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

Canton shop owner Julie Pello has made it her business to give pampered pets a stylish makeover at Uptown Poochie Parlor in Cherry Hill Village. Now she hopes to find

homes for less fortunate dogs housed at the Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, or FMAR, in Belleville.

Pello has announced a chance for potential pet owners to pair up with cuddly canines by bringing dogs from

FMAR to her shop 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, on Cherry Hill Road east of Ridge, near the Village Theater on Canton's far west side.

Pello said she has volunteered "for years" for FMAR.

'Great shelter'

"It's a really great shelter and it's a for-real, no-kill shelter," she said. "If they can save an animal in any possible way or rehabilitate it, they do."

Erin Clemmer, FMAR volunteer, said dogs needing a

home will be brought to Uptown Poochie Parlor so they can interact with potential owners.

"It's going to be a meet and greet," Clemmer said.

If aspiring pet owners find a dog they want, she said, they will begin a process that involves filling out a form and bringing any other dogs they have to the shelter to interact with their potential new housemate

"They also can take the pet home to make sure everybody there gets to meet it," Clemmer said.

Anyone who rents a home has to show proof they can have a pet.

Doggie day

Clemmer said only dogs will be brought to Uptown Poochie Parlor.

Pello said visitors who stop by are encouraged to bring old blankets, trash bags, dog and cat food, kitty litter, collars and other pet supplies – something she always accepts for FMAR.

In another effort to support the shelter, Pello plans to bring in a photographer from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, for pet portraits, with a \$15 sitting fee going to FMAR.

To sign up, stop by the shop or call 734-495-0145.

For more on FMAR, located at 51299 Arkona Road in Belleville, call 734-461-9458, send an email to shelter1@comcast.net or go to www.fmar1.org.

dclem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

Plymouth United Way starts fund drive

Agency looking to raise money for community

Plymouth Community United Way kicks off its 2013 campaign to raise money for programs that focus on basic needs, education and stability within Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County on Aug. 22.

For the last several years, PCUW provided emergency food, rental and utility assistance because of the downturn in the economy. In addition to providing basic needs, this year's contributions will help PCUW pursue its new Community Impact Initiative to advance the common good and improve the lives of all residents.

The initiative aims to prevent problems rather than just treat the symptoms. In an effort to address issues, grants were awarded to organizations attempting to make lasting change. Among the recipients were Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (reading and math summer academy for 300 elementary students and a Bridge program to prepare ninth-grade students for success in high school), and Wavne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (energy education classes to help low income residents lower utility costs).

Last year, besides funding services such as food pantries, bus transportation for seniors, housing for adults with developmental disabilities, shelter

for domestic violence victims and their children, grief counseling, and opportunities for youth to develop skills and become valuable members of the community, PCUW orga-nized Make a Difference days to clean yards of senior citizens and people with disabilities, and collected new hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, school supplies, and food for those in need.

Donations can be made online at www.plymouthunitedway.org or to Plymouth Community United Way, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth, MI 48170. For information about giving, contact Linda Ann Chomin, Campaign & Community Relations Associate at 734-453-6879, Ext. 5.

While online, visitors may also take the Community Impact Survey.

Results of the survey will be used to identify issues and develop a vision for the future. Surveys are also available at the PCUW office.

MEMORIAL

Continued from Page A1

police officers and firefighters who've lost their lives while on duty for a Wayne County community. The \$250,000 cost is being funded through the county parks and recreation millage. Heroes on Hines, which officials hope will become an annual run, is designed to raise money for the memorial's long-term maintenance.

"I'm excited about the uniqueness of the project," said Lawrence Hemingway, director of Wayne County Parks. "The unfortunate piece is individuals losing their lives in the line of duty. It will be a great place for people to come and pay their respects to our first responders."

Hemingway said he hopes to attract at least several stores, including one in Northville Township, to manage the races. The company, together with the county, decided the course and planned logistics. Running Fit designed the course website, heroesonhines.com, and is handling registration, shirt and finishers' medal designs and run marketing. "I'm honored that

Wayne County came to us to be a part of this project," Randy Step, the company president, wrote in an email.

The 5K race (3.1 miles) is \$29 through Thursday, Sept. 5, then goes to \$34 through noon Thursday, Oct. 3, then to \$40 until race time. The half marathon (13.1 miles) is \$49 through Sept. 5, then \$59 through noon Oct. 3 and then \$70 until race time. All runners will get a running technical shirt, while half-marathoners will get a finishers' medal. There will be medals for overall, age group and team competitions.

Consumers accepts fine for home explosion

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

ROYAL OAK - The failure of Consumers Energy crews to adhere to company protocol regarding boring practices and in not following leak investigation procedures led to the fatal Royal Oak house explosion in February, according to an investigation report released by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

The MPSC fined the utility company \$340,000, and Consumers also agreed to pay \$1 million to create a Natural Gas Incident Response fund for victims of natural gas disasters and to improve training and safety practices for utility workers. A 12-page report by the MPSC detailed the events leading up to the explosion that killed Daniel Malczynski, 58, including the failure of the crews to initially locate the gas line by hand digging, and the fact they left the scene after smelling gas and without evacuating nearby residents.

ICE FEST

Continued from Page A1

The ice festival had

been run as a nonprofit.

committee, but the com-

overseen by a citizens

mittee disbanded last

December and Walton

said he would try to run

mjachman@hometownlife.com

RHEUMATOLOGY

the festival as a profit-

making enterprise.

Twitter: @mattjachman

313-222-2405

A "contributing factor" to not following construction procedures, the report says, was that only one supervisory employee was on site, and was only there to drop off construction drawings.

Also two crew members did not hold the proper qualification to locate pipelines.

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, who announced on Aug. 12 the agreement with Consumers to create the fund for victims, said what happened to Malczynski was "an inexcusable tragedy."

According to the agreement, \$900,000 will be used for customers impacted by natural gas disasters, while the remaining \$100,000 will go toward studying best practices in the industry and developing statewide training for utility workers and first responders. The investigation by the MPSC also found that the gas line had been damaged in front of Malczynski's home at 4232 Cooper Avenue, as well as at two other locations on the street.

CHANGES

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Director of second-

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Gregor, meanwhile, has

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» Phil Freeman, who

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BAR

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couple's application to transfer the Rock's Class C alcohol license. The final say on the license transfer lies with the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Jim Dales said Friday that The Post Plymouth Bistro could be open in a month or two if their bid for the license is successful.

"We don't expect a long time frame," Dales said.

The Daleses' application to the city says the building they plan to buy includes Plaka Mediterranean Grill and two apartments, but that no changes are planned for those tenants. The building's facade will be updated, the information says, and the outdoor serving area in back of the bar redone in keeping with the character of the downtown historic district.

The Post name had been used for many years in area bars that had been owned by Jennifer Dales' family, but the family sold the business in 2006 and it went bankrupt in 2011. Jennifer Dales retained rights to the name, however

The Rock, which had been open for about three years, replacing the former Cafe Bon Homme, closed in late January after city officials took steps to seek the revocation of its liquor license. Officials had deemed the bar a nuisance after complaints of noise, litter and disturbances caused by Rock patrons.

500 runners to the event.

"With this being the first year, if we get between 500 and 1,000 runners, we'll be well on our way," he said.

Running buddies

The county has partnered with Running Fit, a running shoe and equipment retailer with

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The city's liquor license committee meeting is 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, while the City Commission meeting is at 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Park, at Junction and Auburn.

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had been in charge of facilities and operations, has been made the assistant superintendent of programs and services, and will be in charge of the district's five middle

Kate Dietrich joined the team last week as the new director of communications, community engagement and marketing.

schools.

The board of education approved the changes Tuesday. "When you get someone in who's been highly successful and they have view to make things more effective, you go with it," said John Barrett, the board's president. "This reorganization will make the district more effective."

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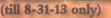
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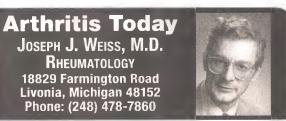
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WHEN FINGERS WON'T FLEX

One problem common to many elderly people is that their fingers won't flex. In most instances fingers are particularly stiff in the morning; it may take up to two hours before the fingers are able to button shirts or hold a brush firm enough to allow a person to brush his or her hair.

The most common cause is that the patient has osteoarthritis of the hands. The difficulty in gripping occurs because the hand joints and knuckles no longer have a layer of smooth cartilage that allows for friction free movement of the fingers. The fingers won't flex because doing so is painful. What the fingers need is warmth as heat will open up a blood supply to the stiff fingers. In turn, the blood will warm joint fibers and bring in nutrients whose effect is to unlock the frozen fingers.

People who have diabetes are often plagued by morning stiffness in their fingers. In this case, the problem is not with the finger joints, but with the tissue in the palm of the hand. That tissue becomes thick making it difficult for the tendons that run through the palm to slide forward and backward in an unobstructed manner. The effect of this obstruction is to cause the hands, particularly in the morning, to move with difficulty

Another cause of stiff hands is a thickening of the crease in the hand. When that occurs, the tendons in the palm are pressed between the thick tissue above them and the metacarpal bones under them. The result is tendons that can't move.

The doctor's job is to determine which cause is acting on the tendons and decide on that basis what is the appropriate therapy.

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Union carpenters build ramp for Canton member

'Brothers' pitch in to help couple in need

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Beverly Langham, a diabetic who has suffered multiple strokes and a heart attack, needed a handicap-accessible ramp added to the Canton Township home she shares with her husband, Chuck.

But Chuck, a heart attack survivor himself, knew he wasn't going to be able to build it.

So his brothers built it for him.

Not brothers in a sibling sense, but brothers in the "we're in this together" sense that often accompanies union membership and Langham, a recently retired member of the Michigan Regional **Council of Carpenters** and Millwrights, found out he could count on his.

Many union members joined in this week, building a new deck and adding a ramp to the front of Langham's College Park Estates home.

"As a union, we are there to help our members, however and when-ever we can," said union member Ed Musser, a Livonia resident who organized the volunteer effort. "They needed a ramp built, and we came out and gave them one."

Langham recently retired from Garden **City-based International** Extrusion, which Musser said donated "about half the cost" of the \$3,000 project. Canton-based Mans Lumber gave workers "a great discount" on the lumber needed for the 6- by 12-foot deck and accompanying ramp.

The project, under the auspices of the union's executive financial treasurer Michael Jackson,

included volunteers from Local 1045 (interior systems), Local 1234 (residential local) and Local 687 (commerical carpenters).

The project, and others like it, are part of the Council's mission to help in the community. Charlie Jackson, the treasurer's brother, figures he's worked on some 200 decks in the last 20 years

A 40-year member of the union, Jackson said volunteering for such projects is a no-brainer.

We're supposed to help each other, I really believe that," Jackson said. "They don't allow us to do it, they encourage us to help. This is special to me, because

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(Langham) is one of our members.'

It's special to Langham, too, because Beverly can no longer negotiate the stairs. He hopes to get her a motorized roundabout to allow her easier access to their home

On Thursday, he was very appreciative of the effort being put forth for him

"After they set the boards (the night before), Bev sat out on the deck for about two hours," Langham said. "I feel good about what they're doing. It means a lot to us."

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Volunteers from a variety of locals of the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights helped put a ramp and a new deck on the home of a retired union member from Canton.



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TABLES



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BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR BKADRICH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Backpack drive benefits schools

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

In a couple of weeks, thousands of students in the Plymouth-Canton school district, as in districts across the state, will begin the 2013-14 school year.

And thanks to school supply drives conducted by organizations such as the Plymouth Salvation Army, the United Way and others, the needy among them will be able to start the year with a new backpack and a set of school supplies.

The Salvation Army is conducting its annual "Back 2 School Blitz" and provided the beginning of donations earlier this week.

"The opening of a school year is an exciting time and it can also create some pressures," said Dr. Michael Meissen, Plymouth-Canton's super-intendent. "To have partners who can provide support to families is really essential. The board has as a strong priority for community partnerships and the Salvation Army and the good things they do for our students is very important."

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps - in partnership with the Plymouth-Canton and Van



Dr. Michael Meissen, superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, accepts a donation of backpacks from Maj. Keith Bailey, the corps officer for the Plymouth Salvation Army.

Buren school districts, as well as many local churches, service clubs and private donors launches a school supply drive Aug. 19. The drive seeks to collect school supplies and backpacks for K-12 students for the upcoming school year.

Volunteers will be on hand at the Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, in Plymouth, to accept donations 1-6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24. The supplies will then be sorted and packed into backpacks for distribution to families Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Needed supplies include backpacks (particularly for older students), binders, supply cases/ bags, colored pencils, markers, wide-ruled paper and one-subject note books, highlighters,

pens (red, black and blue), rounded-tip scissors, No. 2 pencils, rulers, glue bottles, glue sticks, composition books and folders.

In addition to school supplies, the Army will be accepting donations of new socks and underwear that will be distributed through the Plymouth-Canton Community Clothing Bank, a partner of the Salvation Army throughout the year. Monetary gifts will be used to purchase Payless gift cards that will be distributed to each child so they can purchase new school shoes.

'We are seeing and hearing of clients returning to work, albeit at a much lower rate or at reduced hours," said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries at the Plymouth Salvation Army. "We also know that many continue to struggle as unemployment benefits run out or as folks accept pay cuts to maintain their jobs. Preparing kids to go back to school can be very expensive, so this is a practical way to support our families and students as they return to school."

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Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Department is offering a tuitionfree program for 4-yearold children.

The classes offer inquiry-based learning in an exploratory program where children use classroom materials to explore, discover and

learn! The classrooms offer an environment that nurtures language development and focus on kindergarten readiness with close ties to the district's kindergarten curriculum.

This tuition-free preschool program runs from September through June. Classes are offered Monday through Thursday, with full- and partday options. The full-day program is six hours per day. The half-day option is three hours per day. Morning and afternoon sessions are available.

Classes are free to eligible families who are residents of the Plymouth-Canton Communi-

ty School District. Children must be 4 years old by Nov. 1. All tuition-free classes are located at Allen Elementary, 11100 Haggerty Road, Plymouth.

Call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 for more information or visit http://earlychildhood.pccs.k12.mi.us.



Elson Liu, Plymouth-Canton's new director of integrated technology systems, shakes hands with Board of Education members and administrators after his hiring was approved Tuesday night.

District gets new technology chief

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

With the approval of the May bond initiative, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators are faced with the daunting task of empowering students with a 1:1 technology upgrade that will put an iPad or other learning device in the hands of some 18,000 students and 1,100 teachers.

And now they have the guy to lead the effort.

Elson Liu has been hired by the district as its first director of integrated technology systems. Liu's main job: Implementing the technology initiative included in the \$114.4 million bond proposal.

Liu replaces Jim Casteel, who retired over the summer.

Monica Merritt, assistant superintendent of human resources and labor relations, said Liu "can build a culture of innovation" in Plymouth-Canton schools.

'We have all this technology being proposed and we needed someone to help teachers bridge that gap to 21st century learning," Merritt said.

Merritt said staffers

were in the process of filling a couple of technology specialist positions when Casteel announced his retirement. That process stopped, she said, while the team sought out a new leader.

Merritt said the posting got 21 responses. including four from internal candidates. Nine of them were interviewed and three were brought back for a second interview before the team settled, in "a unanimous decision," Merritt said, on Liu.

Liu has been director of technology for Brighton schools since 2008. He helped plan an \$88 million bond and has conducted pilot projects worth some \$500,000 to evaluate new technologies.

Before Brighton, Liu spent eight years with Howell Public Schools.

Liu earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's degree in educational technology from MIT.

"He has everything we need to lead us forward with this dynamic team and this vision," Merritt said.

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Large crowd of cruisers expected for annual Hines Drive cruise

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

With attendance doubling over two years, Don Nicholson has every reason to expect the third installment of Cruisin' Hines to be bigger and definitely better.

The annual one-day cruise of Hines Drive from Ann Arbor Trail in Westland to Outer Drive in Dearborn will roar to life at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug, 25. More than 40,000 classic cars – those at least 25 years old – and hot rods – vehicles altered in some way after they left the dealership – are expected to participate.

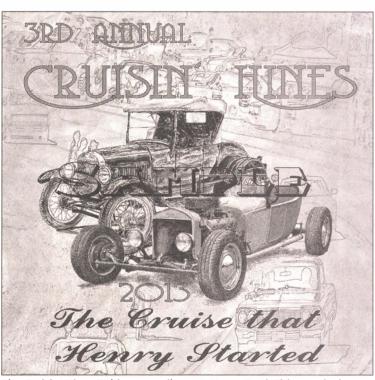
"The third year is looking phenomenal," said cruise promoter Nicholson of Westland. "We're getting more and more calls and we have doubled the number of car clubs. We had 24 last year and 52 so far this year."

Hines Drive will be closed to regular traffic from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday for the cruise. In a switch from last year, cruisers must enter Hines Drive off Merriman, north of Warren Road. All spectators can enter at Merriman, Telegraph Road or the Warrendale picnic area in Dearborn Heights.

Few changes

The change for cruisers, who beginning showing up well in advance of 9 a.m., is to cut down on the congestion that developed at Ann Arbor Trail.

"With Ann Arbor Trail two lanes and Farmington and Hines, it was like a funnel,"



The Cruisin' Hines T-shirt pays tribute to Henry Ford. This year is the 150th anniversary of the auto pioneer's birthday.

Nicholson said. "It's four lanes on Merriman, so hopefully traffic will flow a little better. I like the fact that a lot of cars want to get into the park, but I don't want the cruise to be known as a traffic jam. I want it to be known as a cool event."

Nicholson is opting to let the cruisers be the entertainment again this year. The first year, his official cruise band, the Six Foot Poles, performed, but "everyone had their backs to the stage so they could watch the cars."

There also will be displays around Nankin Mills by the

Model T Complex (the Piquette Factory), where Henry Ford built the Model T, Motor Cities National Heritage Area and Detroit Historical Museum. A Detroit Grand Prix car also will be on display.

Nicholson will be giving cruisers mini "I Cruised Hines Drive" street signs and Cruisin' Hines programs. He has 30,000 programs and eight boxes of the street signs provided by *Cruis'news magazine*. There also will be vendors

up and down the 7½-mile route. Nicholson also is looking for 20 volunteers to help with the cruise. They will work at the spectator entrances and at the main gate to let cars in and pass out magazines. Volunteers also are needed to work with the Friends of Nankin Mills in raising money to restore a Model T that will put in the museum for children to "get in and out."

Nicholson is holding a volunteers meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, at Nankin Mills, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, in Westland. Interested people can also call him at 734-658-5296 for more information.

Big turnout

There's no need to register for the cruise, something Nicholson shelved after the first cruise in 2011. He had used the registration to develop a mailing list, but discovered it was too costly.

"I expected 4,000 and got 24,371. I couldn't afford the postage," he said. "I've even discontinued the goodies bags. I discovered people really don't look in them."

This is the first year Cruisin' Hines is included in Pure Michigan's Autopalooza and is being promoted outside of the state. Nicholson also was at the Woodward Dream Cruise this



More than 40,000 classic cars, street rods and modifieds filled Hines Drive last year for the second annual Cruisin' Hines car cruise. FILE PHOTO

weekend to promote "all Autopalooza events."

Nicholson is pleased with the prominence the Hines cruise has achieved in just three years, rating a magazine cover with the likes of the Woodward Dream Cruise and Flint's Back to the Bricks.

"The Woodward Dream Cruise was the inventor of all of this," he said. "Where would we be without it? Everyone strives to achieve that level."

For more information about Cruisin' Hines, visit its website cruisinhines.com or its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CruisinHines.

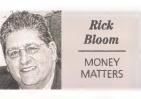
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"The third year is looking phenomenal. We're getting more and more calls and we have doubled the number of car clubs. We had 24 last year and 52 so far this year."

DON NICHOLSON Cruisin' Hines promoter



Q: Dear Rick: I was just divorced and in the settlement I became the sole owner of a 12-unit apartment building. I have no experience on apartments, but my accountant said that the building is a good investment and I should keep it. He said I can hire a management company to run it. My brother, however, says I should sell the building and use the money to pay off the mortgage on my home. Through the divorce settlement, I will have my income needs covered and, other than my mortgage which is around 6 percent, I have no other debt. A: In reviewing your situation, I agree with your brother. My reasoning is based upon a number of different issues. Being a landlord is not easy. It is one of the toughest jobs. Not only do you have to deal with all the associated issues that arise from owning real estate, you also have all the issues surrounding being a landlord. I recognize that you can hire a management company to handle dayto-day concerns, however, as an owner of real estate there are still going to be issues that vou need to be involved with, such as how to handle a tenant that is not paying rent to what improvements need to be done on the building. I believe that prior to becoming a landlord, one ought to talk to people who are landlords or study what it takes to become a landlord. Unfortunately, too many people think that as a landlord all you need to do is collect the



monthly rent. It is not so easy. What makes it difficult, for example, is that if you have a tenant that you like but they can't afford the rent, what do



you do? If you can't honestly answer that you would evict them, you probably shouldn't be a landlord. I know that, personally, I would have a hard time evicting anyone and that is why I am not a landlord.

One other factor to consider is if you hire a management company, what does that do to your cash flow? You may find that by the time you pay management fees, your cash flow has been reduced.

One last note, I look at owning real estate as a business versus an investment. As an investment, you can afford to be passive, where you cannot afford to do that as a landlord. As a landlord, you must be actively involved in the property. If you do not have the time or desire to be involved, it is probably a good sign that you should look at doing something different with your money

In your situation, using the proceeds to pay off a 6-percent mortgage is a very good use of the money. Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomasset management.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomasset management.com.



Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Plenty of activities planned for annual celebration

Senior citizens living in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties are invited to enjoy a day at the Detroit Zoo on Senior Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Wednesday, Sept. 4. Seniors age 62 and older and a caregiver will receive free admission, parking and rides on the Tauber Family Railroad.

Senior Day also will feature live music, tractor train tours, bingo, a senior resource area and zookeeper talks highlighting some of the zoo's senior animal residents. In addition, Blue Care Network and the SilverSneakers Fitness Program are pairing up to offer a free group exercise class, exercise demos and functional fitness assessments.

The fall Senior Day is one of two free days for tri-county seniors held annually at the Detroit Zoo in appreciation for voter approval in 2008 of a ballot proposal to fund the zoo.

The Detroit Zoological Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. Situated on 125 acres, the Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak

The Detroit Zoo is open 362 days a year, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through Labor Day – with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the day after Labor Day through October and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March.

Admission is \$14 for adults age 15 to 61, \$12 for senior citizens e ag62 and older and \$9 for children 2 to 14. Children under 2 are free. The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday April through October and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. It's closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free.

For more information, call 248-541-5717 or visit www.de-troitzoo.org.

Woehlke Palooza aims to help fallen firefighter's family

LOCAL NEWS

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Some well-known musical acts will take the stage Friday and Saturday, Aug. 23-24, when U.S. 12 and the Wayne-Westland Professional Fire Fighters. Local 1279 host the first ever Woehlke Palooza.

The palooza benefits the family of Brian Woehlke, the Wayne-Westland firefighter who died May 8 in the line of duty. The event will feature music, firefighter events and family activities.

"It's a celebration of Brian Woehlke," said John Goci of U.S. 12. "Brian used to hang out here with his best friend. His friend still comes in here, but it's hard."

The event is being held in and outside U.S. 12 at Sims and Second Street in downtown Wayne, rain or shine, beginning at 5 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday.

Activities Friday include a corn hole tournament, firefighters auction and beer pong. Food and drinks also will be available. The music will start at 6 p.m. and feature the Thrill Billies, followed by Ty Stone and headliner LoCash Cowboys.

On Saturday, the palooza gets started at noon and features a variety of family activities. There will be kids' contests, including ice cream eating, Hula Hoop and musical chairs, clowns, face painting, a bounce house, dunk tank and firefighters competitions like water ball, rolling water ball and combat challenge.

Firefighter events

Also planned is a fire station cook-off and tactical demonstrations by firefighters. Food, drinks and a DJ also will be available all day inside and outside on the patio. WRIF-FM (101.1) will broadcast live Saturday from U.S. 12.

Inside, the Social Bandits, Juke Box Heroes, Pistol Day Parade and E5C4P3 — The Journey Tribute Band will perform, beginning at 6 p.m.

"It'll be a lot of fun, there will be a lot of family things," Goci said. "It'll be a great



A two-day event at U.S. 12 in Wayne will benefit the family of Wayne-Westland firefighter Brian Woelhke, who died in a May 8 fire.



Detroit-based rock band Pistol Day Parade will perform at Woehlke Palooza.

time."

Goci and the firefighters union have been working on the benefit for about six weeks. They have been able to "get some good sponsors" to help bring in some national acts like Ty Stone, who has toured nationally and is affiliated with Kid Rock. LoCash Cowboys also have written several No. 1 hits, Goci said.

"We've gotten some anonymous sponsors and we need to nail down a few more," Goci said. "Now we're focusing on promoting it. Friday will be country, Saturday will be rock with the amazing Journey tribute band."



Among the performers at Woehlke Palooza will be the LoCash Cowboys, who combine soul, rock, funk, pop, hip-hop and gospel in a high-energy version of contemporary country.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance at all Wayne-Westland fire stations, U.S. 12 and www.netpix.com.

Hopes are to raise \$16,000 to \$20,000 for the Woehlke family — his wife Jennifer and 13-month-old daughter Ava. The family will attend the event, according to Goci, who is confident about how much can be raised. The bar can accommodate up to 3,000 people inside and out each day.

"I really hope we get 6,000 people. Our goal is to generate 100 percent of the proceeds for the family fund," Goci said. "There's a lot of support for the Woehlke family and the "I really hope we get 6,000 people. Our goal is to generate 100 percent of the proceeds for the family fund." JOHN GOCI

hometownlife.com

event organizer

firefighters."

Helping the family

Numerous fundraisers have been held since Woehlke died in the May 8 fire. He had been with the department for 10 months when he responded to a fire at Marvaso's Italian Grille and Electric Stick just after 8 a.m. A mayday distress radio call was received from him about 9:30 a.m. and his body was recovered from the collapsed building about 12:40 p.m.

It was determined that he died of smoke and soot inhalation after became trapped in debris from the collapsed businesses. He was the first firefighter to fall in the line of duty in the city of Westland Fire Department's 47-year history.

Fire investigators have yet to rule on a cause for the fire at the popular restaurant and gaming room. In July, Wayne-Westland Fire Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal John Adams had said he was waiting for another engineering report before completing his investigation.

At the time, Adams said that there was no evidence of accelerants found at the scene.

Goci is hoping the palooza becomes a yearly thing. It's being held on the weekend that the city used to hold Wayne Wheelfest, before canceling it because of financial problems.

"I'm praying for good weather. I hope all of the rain gets out of the way before Friday," Goci said. "That weekend used to be Wayne Wheelfest and from what I remember, it never rained."

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Mom pens book to honor daughter with disabilities

LOCAL NEWS

Livonia author hoping to encourage other families facing adversity

By Karen Smith Staff Writer

Doctors were so sure Jennifer Siewicki of Livonia was going to die when they sent her home from the hospital at 2 months of age that they didn't teach her parents how to perform CPR.

Jennifer, now 29, was born with pulmonary hypertension, among other congenital abnormalities that were later diagnosed as CHARGE Syndrome. She couldn't eat or breathe on her own and had failure to thrive. Doctors predicted she would never walk, talk or learn.

But Jennifer was determined to live and her parents were equally determined not to let her die. "She never gave up so we couldn't. She was our motivation; we could see it in her face," said her mother Carolyn Siewicki.

Jennifer not only learned how to walk, she downhill skis and water skis with Michigan Adaptive Sports. Though she is mildly cognitively impaired, she learned to read at 8, graduated from Livonia Stevenson High School with a regular diploma and completed three years of coursework in a special program at Oakland University, where she had her own radio show.

Carolyn Siewicki published a book in June about her daughter titled The Joys of Jennifer: Finding Success for Your Child with CHARGE Syndrome or Other Challenges.

Each other's hero

"I wrote it to honor my daughter," Carolyn Siewicki said. "She is my hero. She survived and did far beyond even that. She has a list of accomplishments a mile long." Carolyn said she want-

ed to encourage parents of other children born with physical and cognitive challenges and also let the public know how capable people with disabilities are

Jennifer, who Carolyn describes as "a wonderful funny young woman with a sense of humor that won't quit," said she thinks it's awesome her mom wrote a book about her and thinks of her as her hero.

But, she said, the real hero is her mother. "I think she's the best mom in the whole wide world," Jennifer said.

Carolyn, 62, did not know Jennifer, her youngest of



Jennifer Siewicki

in Livonia. "She was purple and could not breathe," Carolyn said. "She didn't cry." A team from Children's Hospital in Detroit arrived to whisk her away.

cy Hospital

She was in the hospital for two months before being discharged. While the doctors doubted she would survive, let alone thrive, the Siewickis were certain she would improve once they got her home with them and her two older brothers, "who love her to pieces."

A visiting nurse taught the Siewickis how to perform CPR. A couple of days later, she stopped breathing, her parents performed CPR, then they took her back to Children's, where she stayed until September before going home again. At that point, doctors



Jennifer Siewicki, second from right, at the recent CHARGE Syndrome Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., where her mother did a book signing.

advised her parents to place her in a nursing home.

Instead, the Siewickis took her back home, where she had aroundthe-clock nursing care. By Christmas of that year, Jennifer had started to thrive.

"She's a very deter-mined person," Carolyn said. "She's got a lot of heart and determination; I can't even explain her spirit. She sees herself as anybody else."

Faith sustained them

Carolyn said their faith helped get them through struggles like Jennifer's learning to eat after being on a feeding tube for the first three years of her life. She would eat, throw up, eat, throw up and then eat again.

Or Jennifer's learning to read. When Jennifer wasn't making progress in school, Carolyn ordered Hooked On Phonics and the two spent an entire summer working on the learn-to-read system.

The Bible verse hanging on their refrigerator, Proverbs 16:3, was an inspirational reminder:

"Entrust your works to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." Jennifer's motto always was, "I can try." Jennifer is now back

at home, after living on her own while attending OU, looking for work, caring for her cat and keeping her family laughing with her oneliners. She hopes to find a job working with animals or in the film industry

0 & E Media | Sunday, August 18, 2013 (CP) A7

Carolyn said she would tell parents with a child with cognitive and physical challenges to never give up. "You have to have hope, and to be strong and to reach out to your friends and family," she said. "It really does take a community."

As for Jennifer's advice? "Stay away from clowns," she joked. I had a bad experience once. And don't mix peas with mashed potatoes. You don't even want to try it."

The Joys of Jennifer can be purchased online at carolynsiewickibooks-.com and Amazon.com. The book is also available for purchase at The Next Book Store and Bistro in downtown Northville.

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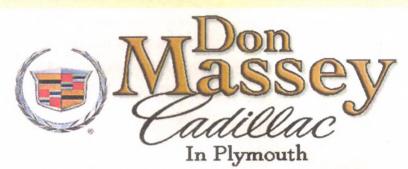
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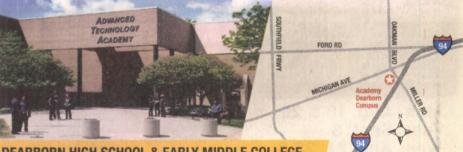
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LOCAL NEWS

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Corn roast

Date/Time: Saturday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Cady/Boyer Barn, Ridge just north of Cherry Hill in Canton Details: The Canton Lions Club hosts its annual corn roast. For a donation of \$5, visitors get corn roasted to perfection, hot dogs, baked beans, ice cream. snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy and watermelon. The club is also selling raffle tickets for \$5 each, which will give the buyer a chance to win \$500 cash first prize. The second-prize winner will receive \$200 cash, with the third-prize winner receiving a gift certificate from N.A. Mans Lumber for \$100. The Lions Club has invited the Michigan Eye Bank, which will advise members about the Gift of Sight and organ donation. The Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind will be available to reveal how it assists the blind and removes barriers that are impediments to their daily living.

Contact: For more information or to get involved with the Canton Lions, contact Lion Bill Van Winkle at 734-254-9404 or email govbill1@wowway.com.

Taste Fest

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m. Location: Station 885, 885 Starkweather in Plymouth's Old Village Details: The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club and Station 885 sponsor Taste Fest, which will offer great food and wine tasting. Participants include Bahama Breeze, Bennigan's, Brann's Sports Grille, Canton Buffalo Wild Wings, Claddaugh Pub, Cupcake Station, Elite Catering, Grand Traverse Pie Co., Happy's Pizza & Ribs, LaBistecca Italian Grille, Max & Erma's-Plymouth, Mitchell's Fish Market, Noodles & Co., Rocky's of Northville, Rusty Bucket, Scrambler's Marie's, Station 885, U.P. Pasties, Vintner's Canton Winery, Zin Wine Bar and Zoup Soup Salad & Sandwiches. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 10

Contact: Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Station 885 and at U.P. Pasties on Main Street. There will be a cash bar available.

Lacrosse camp

Date/Time: Aug. 19-21, 9 a.m. to noon Location: Northville Community Park Details: Northville Parks and Recreation is offering a summer lacrosse camp for boys and girls in grades 5-8. Cost is \$125. Camps are offered for boys and girls. Players have a chance to learn from coaches Jake Kenney, Princeton national championship team member, who will lead the boys camp, and Stacey Tardich, an All-America player and Northville High School varsity coach, who will lead the girls camp Camp includes daily drills, instruction and scrimmages.

Contact: Registration is through Northville Parks and Recreation at www.northvilleparksandrec.org or



Kids day

Students gathered in Plymouth for a reading session, credit union tour, snacks and much more at Catholic Vantage Financial Federal Credit Union. Youth Program Coordinator Jen Galatis read to the students and discussed financial topics as well as issues, all in an age-appropriate and engaging manner. Galatis, with the help of the Plymouth branch staff, gave students a tour of the credit union, with a special stop at the coin counter, drive through and vault area. The students, ages 5-10, enjoyed snacks around the conference table while listening to Galatis read "Lemonade in Winter" by Emily Jenkins and G. Brian Karas.

email kkoupal@ci.northville.mi.us for more information.

Summit open house

Date/Time: Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5-8 p.m.

Location: Summit on the Park, Canton Details: Heralding in new books, backpacks and beginnings, the Summit on the Park community and fitness center will host a back-to-school open house. During the open house, guests will be welcome to discounted Summit memberships, free swimming (7-9 p.m.). prize drawings, performances by Dancin' Feet Studio, American Okinawan Karate Academy and magician Magic Joe and face-painting courtesy of D&M Art Studio, Crusin' Custom Conevs will also be on site serving hot dogs with chili

Contact: For more information, call 734-394-5460

Medicare/Medicaid counseling

Date/Time: Sept. 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location: United Home Health Services, 2200 N. Canton Center Road, Suite 250, Canton

Details: United Home Health Services offers free counseling with a certified MMAP (Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program) counselor. The counselor can help you understand your Medicare/ Medicaid eligibility and the various plans, apply for Medicaid, research and enroll in Medicare Part D Drug Insurance, understand Medicare supplemental plans, find pharmaceutical assistance programs, identify and report Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse and explore long-term care insurance options. No appointment necessary. Contact: Call 734-981-8820 or visit the MMAP website at www.mmapinc.org/ pages/about.html

Perennial exchange

Date/Time: Saturday, Sept. 7, 9-11 a.m. Location: East end of Kellogg Park Details: The Trailwood Garden Club, member of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, is sponsoring a perennial exchange during the Plymouth Fall Festival. Bring perennials to exchange or just stop by and see what is available. Garden club members will be there to answer any questions. Contact: For more information, contact Darlene at 734-459-7499.

CROP Walk recruiters meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m. Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon, in Canton Details: All area churches, temples and

mosques in Canton and Plymouth are invited to send a representative to this meeting regarding the CROP walk, to be held Sunday, Oct. 13, in Plymouth. CROP hunger walks bring the whole community together in a common mission: helping hungry people at home and around the world. Contact: For more information, contact Gary or Becky Copenhaver at bocopenhaver@yahoo.com or 734-981-6023.

'Come and See' dinner

Date/Time: Sept. 7, 5-7 p.m.; Sept. 8, 1-3 p.m.; Sept. 14, 5-7 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth Townshin Details: Catholics and non-Catholics

within the parish boundaries are invited to a free "Come and See" dinner introducing the parish's new Alpha Course starting this fall. Alpha is a 10-week program aimed at answering the call to the New Evangelization. Child care is available on site for dinner participants free of charge.

Contact: The parish at 734-453-0326 or visit the OLGC website at www.olgcparish.net. Register for the dinner online at https://olgcparish.wufoo.com/forms/ q7x1k9/

Blood drives

Dates/Times/Locations:

» Monday, Aug. 26, 1:30-7:15 p.m., VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill, Plymouth. » Thursday, Aug. 29 1-6:45 p.m., Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

Details: The American Red Cross sponsors several blood drives in the area. Tickets to Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio, will be raffled off at these drives.

Contact: To make an appointment, contact Diane Risko at 313-549-7052.

Crafters wanted

Date/Time: Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours

Location: Plymouth

Details: Organizers say it's not too early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. There are only a few spaces left in the show. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

Contact: For more information, contact Colleen Brown, craftshow@plymouthfallfestival.com or 734-455-1614.

Vendors wanted

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 9 Location: First United Methodist

Church of Northville. Details: Organizers of the sixth annual Bizarre Bazaar are looking for crafters, vendors and entrepreneurs. Indoor spaces available. It's an opportunity to showcase their talents and products to hundreds of local customers. Grow business and help women in Third World countries start a business with a micro-loan from a Village Bank. Contact: For details and to reserve your space, go to http://fumcnorthville.org/#/ missions-and-service, email fumcbazaar@gmail.com or find it on Face

Bipolar support

Date/Time: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location: Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon, Suite 1608, Plymouth.

Details: The Depression Bipolar Support Alliance is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Contact: Call Nancy at 734-536-3457 for directions.

Diabetes support

Date/Time: Second Thursday of each month, 2-3:30 p.m. Location: Plymouth District Library, 223

S. Main

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club is sponsoring a new Adult Diabetes Support Group. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion, will be the group facilitator. There is no charge to attend. Topics for discussion will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies.

Contact: Call Fern Vining at 734-454-0859

Support group

Date/Time/: Second Monday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland Details: Do you have a loved one in jail or prison? Is your heart broken because of it? Then contact Bonnie at Hope 4 Healing Hearts, who will provide a safe place to talk and share with others, a place where you can learn how to cope with all of the new and frightening experiences.

Contact: For questions or more information, contact Bonnie at 734-646-2237 or by email at prettymonarch@comcast.net.

Calling all crafters

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: West Middle School, Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, Plymouth Township

Details: Crafters wanted for Delta Kappa Gamma's 29th annual Craft Show. Proceeds from the show will be used to support college scholarships for local students focusing on careers in education.

Contact: Call or email Judy at 734-347-1001 or ibstone716@comcast.net or Alice at 248-348-9610 or dachrenko@hotmail.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ex-Marine recalls service of Staff Sgt. Reckless — a horse

By Sue Buck Staff Writer

A local family is recalling a famous horse named Staff Sgt. Reckless who played a part in the Korean War.

The Charles Batherson family traveled to the Washington, D.C., area late last month to pay tribute to the horse, which is now memorialized with a new statue in Quantico, Va.

In addition to Batherson and his wife Barbara, who live in Westland, daughter Amy Frazee, a Garden City resident, attended along with son Chuck and his wife Anne from Greensboro, N.C., and daughter Pat McKelvy, a Florida resident.

"Reckless joined the company in May 1953," Batherson, a Marine veteran, said of the military horse. "She was good."

Reckless, a chestnutcolored mare, joined the U.S. Marine Corps in October 1952 as a pack horse.

The Batherson family attended the dedication to Staff Sgt. Reckless at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. Reckless was a horse that was so heroic during the Korean War that the U.S. Marines promoted her to staff sergeant, an honor never before or since bestowed on an animal. She was not a mascot. She was an official military NCO.

60th anniversary

The dedication event this year was tied in to the 60th celebration of the end of the Korean War on Saturday, July 27. It was part of a three-day event which drew 3,000 people.

A plaque and photo were dedicated in her honor at Camp Pendleton Marine Base. A statue of her was dedicated July 26.

Batherson was a sergeant in the Marines during the Korean War, with Reckless.

"Reckless was very important to the Marines," he said.

She is a unique example of an animal that held official rank in a branch of the United States military. Originally purchased for \$250 from a Korean boy who needed money to buy an artificial leg for his sister, she served with the Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, Fifth Marine Division and the 1st Marine Division.

Batherson served in the Anti-Tank Company. Reckless was originally a race horse at a race track, he said. She was about two years old when purchased.

The highlight of her nine-month military career came in late March 1953, during fighting around Vegas Hill when, in a single day, she made 51 solo trips to resupply multiple front line units. Amidst battle, the horse carried ammunition up a hill for 35 miles. On her return trip back, she brought back the wounded and dead. She was injured twice

during the course of duty.

'She was a Marine'

"Most horses are skittish," Barbara Batherson said. "No horse did what she did. She thought that she was a Marine."

Batherson recalled that Reckless preferred to hang out with the guys rather than stay in a corral.

"She liked beer," Batherson said. "She did a lot of crazy things. She wasn't a horse, she was a Marine."

During the cold weather, she would go inside the tents and lie down

near the stove.

Reckless was featured in The Saturday Evening Post and Life magazine.

"She was on the *Ed Sullivan Show*," said Frazee, who grew up in Garden City. "The original tapes have all been destroyed."

She was promoted to sergeant about a month before the war ended in 1953.

Reckless was retired and brought after the war to the United States, where she was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959. Reckless gave birth to four foals in America and died in May 1968.

"She had a good life," Batherson said.

sbuck@hometownlife.com 313-222-2249 Twitter: @SueSbuck

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Charles Batherson, daughter Amy Frazee, and wife, Barbara Batherson, show off a photo of Reckless in the Marine Room at Batherson's Westland condo. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER













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The Environmental Quality Co. in Wayne is partnering with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Mercury Collection Project.

The project is an ongoing effort to collect and properly recycle mercury. Small and large business operations have traditionally been overlooked during mercury collection events. The project's objective is to address this issue and promote a long-term solution for easily collecting and recycling of mercury. The program is free to anyone in Michigan residents included.

The program is easy. Upon request, EQ will send a free collection bucket with a shipping box to your door via

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common carrier. Each bucket will contain the easy-to-follow return instructions. Once the bucket is filled with the mercury containing device or devices, just simply apply the return label, provided with your bucket, securely tape the box and place it where the designated shipper normally picks up your packages.

EQ will facilitate the recycling of the mercury containing devises. Most mercury items can be returned through this mail-back program. Some examples of eligible mercury containing devises include thermometers, thermostats, gauges with silver colored liquid inside, dental amalgam and hydrometers.

The project ends Sept. 30. Call 734-547-2517 or email mercurybucket@eqonline.com to order a free collection container and instruction kit.

More information can be found at greatlakesrestoration.us/ or on the EQ website at www.eqonline.com.

The Environmental Quality Co. is a fully integrated environmental services and waste management organization based in Wayne. It implements innovative technology and service solutions that minimize waste volumes, reduce costs and protect the environment.

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Classic Movies &

Picnic fires up drug awareness need

By Diane Gale Andreassi Staff Writer

A group trying to raise money to open a substance abuse treatment center in South Lyon is a couple of steps closer to its goal. Organizers are hoping this year's fundraising picnic should do a lot to bring them even closer.

The Constanino Del Signore Foundation is hosting its second annual **Tino's Farm Family Pic**nic fundraiser from noon to 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 25, at Sweet Acres Farm, 55880 Eight Mile Road, in Lyon Township. Tickets are \$10 per person and children 5 and younger will be admitted for free. Barbecue chicken, pulled pork, hamburgers, corn on the cob and hot dogs will be served. No alcohol will be allowed.

Participants will be entertained by the Detroit R&B band The Infatuations, three other bands, a clown, pony rides, hay rides, a bounce house, kids games, balloon artist "The Ballonatic," bocce ball, a bow shooting demonstration with lessons for those who want to learn to shoot a bow, 50/50 raffles and the CDS Foundation's crap shoot for a chance to win a flat-screen WiFi TV

Live auction items include a dinner for two at Bacco Restorante in Southfield and an afternoon sailboat cruise and dinner from the Detroit Yacht Club.

Picnic proceeds will go toward opening a substance abuse transition facility in South Lyon in cooperation with Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Botsford Hospital Foundation and Safari Club International S.E. Chapter of Michigan Bowhunters. "Our first goal of \$500,000 is now one-third complete, within this past year," said Richard Asztalos, CDS Foundation president.

Drug awareness

While raising money is a focus of the picnic, the real emphasis is on spreading the message about the importance of drug awareness, Asztalos said. Representatives from Livonia Save Our Youth will make a presentation during the picnic and host a booth providing information.

"Once a family member is in trouble with a substance addiction, the whole family suffers," he added. "We are in an epidemic of substance abuse and lives are being lost from brain damage, suicides and overdoses, resulting in death. Learn what you can do for those you love. Find out what a pharm-party is. Learn what to ask your children. Parents need to be aware and sometimes they're burying their heads in the sand. It's not their kid, it's the neighbors' kid."

A pharm-party, according to Asztalos, is when kids steal pills subscribed to parents, grandparents or others. The pills are put in a bowl and everyone takes what they want, oftentimes not knowing what they have.

The CDS Foundation's focus on drug awareness began after Tino Del Signore died in a tractor accident three years ago on the farm.

Del Signore, the 47year-old son of John and Lina Del Signore, owners of Laurel Manor in Livonia, was known for his generosity and philanthropic work, Asztalos said.

The Aug. 25 fundraiser is intended to carry on that legacy. Tino Del Signore was among a group of people who started CDS Foundation 20 years ago. Since then, \$475,000 has been donated to various causes like St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Garden City Hospital, Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Angela Hospice in Livonia, Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit and other facilities, as well as the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, which Tino founded. No money has gone to CDS Foundation members, Asztalos said.

The foundation began when a church in the province of L'Aquila in Abruzzo, Italy, needed a roof. Foundation organizers raised the needed money and decided a lot of other organizations could use help in the United States and throughout southeast Michigan.

CDS board of directors plan to use the Sweet Acres house and 37-acre farm as a substance abuse and transition center for between eight and 10 people, likely teens, recovering from substance abuse, Asztalos said.

Almost there

Anyone interested in giving additional foundation support can purchase a gold sponsorship for \$500, silver sponsorship for \$250 and bronze sponsorship for \$100.

For more information, go to www.cdsfoundation.net. Tax deductible donations can be sent to CDS Foundation, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

Call Laurel Manor at (734) 462-0770 for picnic tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the event.

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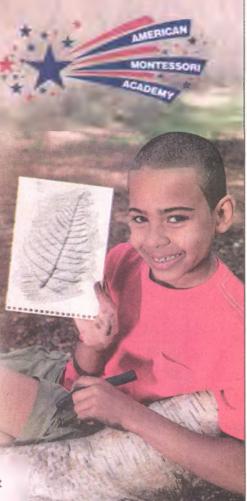
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LOCAL NEWS

50 years later ... **CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST KEEPS WORKING TO FULFILL KING'S DREAM**

By Sue Mason Staff Writer

Reasther Everett would love to tell Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that his dream has come true, the promise fulfilled but, sadly, that hasn't happened in the years since the late civil rights activist called for an end to racism in America.

Everett watched on TV as Dr. King delivered his now famous I Have a Dream speech Aug. 28, 1963, before the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. She was a bridesmaid in a wedding in New York and she found she couldn't pull herself away from the TV.

Fifty years later, the Westland resident remembers the speech gave her chills. It also gave her hope of a better tomorrow

"I think we thought it would be different," she said. "He kept the faith and gave us faith that it could happen. We had a good start, but we never made it to the finish line."

Everett is no stranger to segregation. She grew up in a black community in North Carolina and attended a black high school. She remembers joining students in walking out of school, but they weren't protesting segregation, they were demanding "equalization." They wanted the same things afforded students at the white high school.

Promises were made. The black high school was closed and those students were moved to the white high school. But it wasn't integration. The white students left for another school.

"When the white kids got new books, we got



Reasther Everett has many pieces of art that remind her of the struggle blacks have faced and still face in America. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

their old ones," she said. "When our football team was the North Carolina champions, we still weren't allowed to play a game in the white stadium.'

'Something special'

There were segregated water fountains and bathrooms and blacks had their own community and their own businesses. They were doing well until blacks were allowed to go into the white communities. Everyone wanted to go to the better stores.

'We really wanted to use those white bathrooms, but what we found when they were integrated was that those bathrooms were just as dirty as ours," she said. "We had thought that they would be something really special."

Éverett finished high school in the Brownsville

neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y. Her mother had gone to the predominantly Jewish community to work as a live-in housekeeper.

"I went to pretty much a Jewish high school," Everett said. "Brownsville was a good community. I never heard anything about my color, but a couple of times I was told I wasn't Jewish."

Her activism carried over into her adult years. She joined King in the Walk for Freedom in Detroit on June 14, 1963. In a speech that day, King spoke about his dream of equality and brotherhood between the races. Parts of that speech were in his speech two weeks later in Washington, D.C., including his dream "that one day little white children and little Negro children will be able to join hands as brothers and sisters.

'Living the dream'

By the time King made his iconic speech, Everett and her husband Arnell, a World War II veteran, were living the dream. They were raising their children in their own home in Westland's historic Annapolis Park Subdivision. They were among the first homeowners in the community built in the city's south end for 1950s so "colored veterans could buy a brick house."

"This was the first chance to make a difference," Everett said. "We stayed. This wasn't our starter home, it was our homestead.'

Everett was room mother at her children's school and active in politics, serving as a precinct delegate. She registered voters and, when she had to, took on city hall. The community has changed over the years and mixed race couples, Hispanics and Arab families have

brought integration to the tidy neighborhood.

Everett still walks door-to-door to talk to neighbors and welcome the newcomers, reminding them of the rules. Yes, she says, she may put pressure on them, but she wants to know that when they leave her neighborhood, they leave it the way they found it. "I have no qualms

about telling them they can't do that," she said. "I feel good knowing that I have made a change and the change is for the better. When I see an injustice, I work to change it. I hope I have made a difference in this world."

She also shares the wisdom of her years with her great-grandchildren, helping them to see what still needs to be done to achieve King's dream. She laments that "we have

"We talk the talk. built a generabut we don't walk tion that is all the walk. We say about me things, but we and has don't accomplish forgotten others. them and the The biggest excuses we use as thing to why don't hold now is to water." love your-**REASTHER EVERETT** self." She recently asked her 15-

year-old grandson to tell her what he knew about civil rights. His response was to say King's name.

"I told him, "That's just a name, what do you know?'" she said. "I was surprised that he didn't know anything. Many of our children really don't know either. As family members, we have to teach our children to be proud and see to it that they got the best education possible. They don't

have to go through the things some of us had to, they can grow to be anything they want to be."

'More hidden'

And the battles of the 1950s and 1960s continue. While it may look like segregation is gone, today it is "more hidden," Everett said.

"We talk the talk, but we don't walk the walk,' she said. "We say things, but we don't accomplish them and the excuses we use as to why don't hold water. We have the haves and the have nots and it's hard to understand why we still have the have nots."

Looking back on the watershed moment in the history of the civil rights moment, Everett notes that there's still so much to be done and so little time to do it, but "by the

> grace of God" it will get done in her lifetime. She also believes that Dr. King would be "really disappointed" that his dream hasn't been fulfilled and "in all of us for what has happened."

"Some of the things he talked about were a dream and some of the hopes came true, but for every three steps we've taken forward, we've taken two back," she said. "I started working in civil rights when I was 13 and I continue to be an activist because I want to be a part of that dream coming true."

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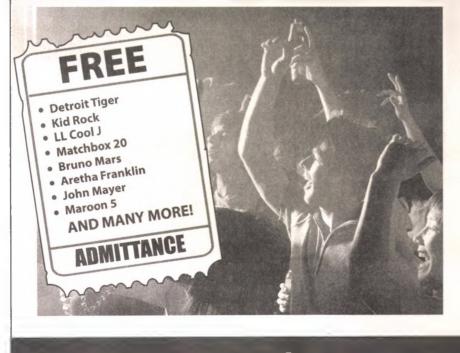


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Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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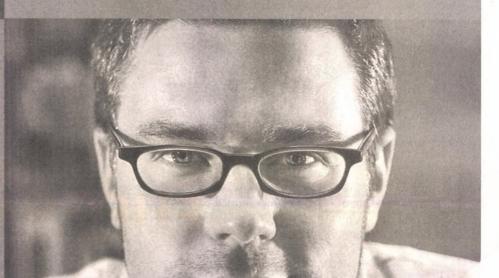


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Allen Park resident Dean Bacheller leaves the store.



Several customers walk through the Menards parking lot Friday.

Garden City resident Susan Suboch pushes a cart full of items bought from Menards. ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND [STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Menards finally opens to much fanfare

Large crowds fill store on first day

By David Veselenak Staff Writer

Susan Suboch has driven by the new Menards home improvement store several times. So when she saw the sign announcing it was open, she and her husband decided to check it out.

She ended up walking out with a brand-new mailbox and humming bird feeders for her family's home in Garden City

"It has a large variety



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fixtures, lumber and tools.

James Larkin, the store's manager, said he's surprised at the number of customers that have walked through the door. The parking lot Tuesday was filled.

"I did not expect it to be that large the very first day," he said. "I was hoping for a great turnout, which we did receive.'

Wayne County's first Menards

The store is the first Menards to open in Wayne County and one of two in the Detroit area. Another Menards opened in the spring up in Ches-terfield Township, while another opened up last month in Port Huron. The hardware giant has more than 270 stores in 14 states. Larkin, who has

worked at other Menards

locations in Bay City and Jackson, said it's been great working in a store so close to the urban center surrounding Detroit.

"We've gotten a lot of great feedback from guests," he said. "They're happy we're here; we're happy to be here.

The store continues to accept employment applications. Menards officials would not disclose how many employees the store has.

One of the biggest sections that has seen a lot of items get pulled off the shelf is the grocery area, something Larkin said is uncommon in other home improvement stores.

A grand opening event is scheduled for Aug. 24, complete with local celebrities signing autographs and sales on several items throughout the store, Larkin said. Suboch said the trip

she recently took to the

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Tiffany Svoboda came from Ypsilanti to shop the new Menards in Livonia.

store was a good experience and she said she'd gladly return. "Absolutely," she said.

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Accounting problems remain for Dillon funds

Michigan state treasurer's campaign accounts show large discrepancies

By Paul Egan Gannett Michigan

LANSING — Three campaign finance accounts controlled by Michigan Treasurer Andy Dillon are in disarray, with more than \$100,000 not properly accounted for from Dillon's 2010 campaign for governor, according to published reports.

Dillon and his campaign treasurer want to close the Andy Dillon for Michigan campaign fund he used for the governor's race, but Secretary of State officials won't sign off on the closure because of financial discrepancies.

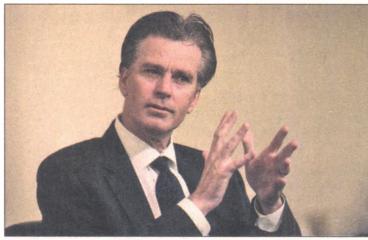
No one has alleged improper activity, but the Secretary of State normally requires a campaign fund to reduce its balance to zero through allowable expenditures before the account can be dissolved and a requirement for ongoing financial reporting ends.

Minor discrepancies sometimes due to unreported items such as small amounts of interest earned on deposits aren't uncommon when dissolving a campaign fund. But discrepancies involving thousands of dollars are rare, Secretary of State spokesman Fred Woodhams said last week.

Two of Dillon's three funds have unexplained accounting errors of about \$105,000 and \$8,900, respectively. The third fund was more than three months behind on its required reporting until last week, when the treasurer filed two past-due reports after he was contacted by the *Detroit Free Press*. The committee was assessed \$775 in late filing fees.

"Treasurer Dillon is aware of the issues, one of which is technological in nature," Dillon spokesman Terry Stanton said. "Each is being addressed by the respective committee treasurer who is responsible for reporting and filings, and the accounts will be closed."

As state treasurer, Dillon oversees tens of billions of dollars in state funds and investments, as well as the financial accounting of Michigan



State Treasurer Andy Dillon has had some trouble with his campaign finances from his run for governor. PATRICIA BECK | DETROIT FREE PRESS

cities such as Detroit.

Among the reasons the state requires regular reporting by candidate committees and political action committees is to assure donation limits aren't exceeded and that fund money is spent only in accordance with state law. Once a campaign is over, leftover money must be disposed of in certain ways, such as donating it to a charity or transferring it to another committee.

Dillon lost the 2010 Democratic nomination to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and later joined the Republican administration of Gov. Rick Snyder, who beat Bernero in the general election. The biggest accounting problem relates to the committee Dillon used for his gubernatorial bid.

In a notarized affidavit Dillon personally swore and signed, filed with the Secretary of State on Feb. 10, 2012, Dillon asked to close the account. "The committee requests the ability to dissolve with the understanding that the ending balance on the 2012 Annual Campaign Statement is inaccurate and only represents an unexplained error in accounting," his statement said.

At that time, Dillon said the fund showed a balance on paper of about \$4,700, but had only about \$27 in its bank account.

Seven months later, in September 2012, Dillon's treasurer Michael Maher filed a corrected 2012 report showing the amount of money that couldn't be accounted for was actually much larger — about \$105,000. "We have only a few dollars in our checking account," Dillon campaign official Michelle Maher wrote in a Jan. 31 email to the secretary of state.

"We think this is an uploading error," Maher said of the reported \$105,000 balance. "We are working to resolve and correct this error and ask that we are given a reporting waiver until this is possible."

Michael Maher said he believes the biggest part of the discrepancy — \$100,000 relates to a compatibility issue between the accounting system the campaign used and the system to receive reports electronically. Somehow the numbers are within less than \$5,000 of balancing in the campaign's system, but shows a nearly \$105,000 discrepancy when uploaded to the state system, he said.

"It's a technical dilemma," and "the two parties can't figure out how to make it go away," he said. "We can't figure out what the next step ought to be."

A second fund, Andy Dillon for State Representative, was dissolved by the Secretary of State in April — despite showing an \$8,900 balance on paper and a zero bank account balance. Again, in that case, Dillon swore an affidavit attributing the discrepancy to an unexplained accounting error.

"No person, including me as candidate or the treasurer Daniel Mahoney, improperly benefited from this account and its ending balance variance," Dillon said in the affidavit.

STATE TREASURER'S CAMPAIGN FUNDS IN DISARRAY

Campaign funds controlled by Michigan Treasurer Andy Dillon have been plagued with reporting problems, and more than \$100,000 is currently unaccounted for in the funds.

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Purpose: Was used to fund Dillon's campaigns as a Democratic state representative from Redford.

Fund balance on paper: \$8,914.53 Fund balance in bank: 0 Issue: The Secretary of State allowed the committee to be dissolved earlier this year despite the financial discrepancy, which Dillon described as "an unexplained error in accounting."

FUND: ANDY DILLON FOR MICHIGAN

Purpose: Was used to fund Dillon's unsuccessful Democratic bid for governor in 2010. Fund balance on paper: \$104,871.05 Fund balance in bank: "A few dollars."

SOURCES: Michigan Secretary of State's Office; Detroit Free Press research DETROIT FREE PRESS

Woodhams said officials allowed Dillon's state representative committee to dissolve because the amount of the discrepancy was much smaller than the one in his gubernatorial account. Typically, "you need to get to zero to dissolve," Woodhams said.

Woodhams said the Secretary of State has granted Dillon's gubernatorial committee a reporting waiver to allow time to sort out the numbers but will not yet allow it to be dissolved.

"We're continuing to work with the committee to resolve the ending balance number so it can be dissolved," Woodhams said. "From the last communication from the committee, it looks like they're working with their software vendor to resolve technological problems hindering the committee from reaching a zero balance and allowing its dissolution."

A third Dillon fund, the Dillon Leadership Fund political action committee, filed two overdue reports last week. The reports were due April 25 and July 25, respectively.

Mahoney said he has changed jobs and relocated Issue: The Secretary of State has refused to allow the committee to be dissolved because of the financial discrepancy. Dillon campaign officials say the large balance is a computer or accounting error, but they have not been able to resolve it.

FUND: DILLON LEADERSHIP

Purpose: Dillon used it to support various candidates when he was a state representative and House speaker.

Fund balance: \$4,667 Issue: The committee filed two overdue reports on Friday, after the treasurer was contacted by the Free Press. The Secretary of State assessed late reporting fines of \$775.

since the fund was set up. He blamed poor communication between him and the secretary of state about where notices for required filings need to get sent.

However, "I ... need to do a better job" of keeping up with the paperwork, Mahoney said.

Asked whether the reporting issues reflect poorly on Dillon as treasurer, Snyder spokeswoman Sara Wurfel said: "These funds have designated officials responsible for administering and filing.

"That said, my comment is that we understand that this issue is actively being addressed and resolved," Wurfel said. "That's obviously important."

She said Dillon has a long list of accomplishments, including achieving the lowest interest rate bond deal the state has ever received, having a transaction selected as bond deal of the year, improving the state's credit rating outlooks, and creating the Office of Fiscal Responsibility to help financially struggling local governments before they reach a crisis level.



hometownlife.com

LOCAL NEWS

Get an 'A' in personality for back to school

Parents, students stocking up for new year

By Beth Jachman Staff Writer

School days, school days, dear old slap bracelet ruler days.

Or gamer calculators, highheel tape dispensers, patterned duct tape or chandeliers for the locker days.

Back to school 2013 offers up plenty of new and fashionable products to go along with the usual notebooks and binders and pens – but even those have a colorful spin.

Greg Jackson, general merchandise line leader of the Meijer store in Livonia, says not only does his store do big business in crayons, glue and markers, but also Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and Monster High backpacks.

Another big seller for either parents or college students are dry erase boards in a variety of shapes and sizes, Jackson said. "We cater to back to college, too," he said. At local Target stores, back to college is also big business with popular wire form lamps, chairs and stools and small space furniture to fit in dorm rooms, according to Mike Lash, an executive team leader of logistics at the Westland Target.

It's my space

At the high school level, items to decorate lockers are popular with teens who want to make that humdrum space their own – even with rugs and mini chandeliers. "If you want some stylish stuff, you can go all out," said Whitney Spencer, executive team leader of logistics at the Westland Target.

"Things are going away from the school I remember," Lash said.

Technology is also changing the face of school supplies.

Tablets and eReaders are the big thing, according to Joe Hirschmugl, a spokesman for Meijer's corporate office. "Tablets are becoming like the new notebook," he said.

This year, some of the hottest tech is the Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Tablets, the New ACER Windows 8 tablet and Windows 8 laptops with "Touch" technology, according to Office Depot spokesperson Raquel Erwin.

At Target, USB drives, calculators (including graphing calculators) and mouse pads are also popular, Lash said.

Get personal

Personalization is huge this year, so many students are choosing to create a customized look. Office Depot offers the Crayola Creation, where kids can customize their own crayon/marker assortment, according to Erwin.

Personalization is also a hit at Target. Duct tape in patterns and colors or popular trademarks is used to personalize backpacks, notebooks and even clothes, Lash said.

Glitter notebooks, animal print pencil pouches, gamer calculators and paisley bind-

THINGS KIDS WANT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

» Sharpie retractable highlighters in assorted colors
 » Post-It flags, small size Post-It notes to mark textbook pages

» Scotch brand high-heel tape dispenser

- » Trapper Keeper with custo-
- mizable cover

» Spiral-bound index cards
» Designer duct tape, along

with paper bags to cover text-

- books
- » USB drives
- » Cute cellphone cases source: familyeducation.com

ers, an assortment of white "blank-canvas" basics that allow students to try DIY and create one-of-a-kind designs unique to their personal style, are popular this year, according to Erwin.

Art supplies such as markers, crayons and paper are also popular, especially in neon colors, Hirschmugl said.



The SanDisk 8GB USB Flash Drive costs \$9.99 at Target.

"We're noticing for middle school kids, backpacks with matching accessories such as lunch boxes," Lash said. Also popular are backpacks and pencil cases in Hello Kitty, Spider-man and Iron Man, Hirschmugl said.

High school kids like plaid and tie dye backpacks, Lash said.

And those slap bracelet rulers, which are bracelets that can be stretched out to be used as a ruler, along with lion, monkey or zebra shaped lunch boxes and Lego folders, notebooks and pencil cases are also on kids' lists for back to school.

Local store managers say they are all stocked up for the rush. "A lot of customers are last-minute shoppers, as with any holiday," Jackson said.

Madonna offers course to become a court interpreter

Madonna University in Livonia will host an open house 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, for those interested in learning more about its class that prepares Americans fluent in Spanish for careers as certified interpreters for the Michigan Court System.

Offered through the Office of Continuing Education, the class provides the necessary training for students to take the state exam to be certified.

Since 2009, 36 students have taken the course and gone on to work in the court system and in area hospitals, where interpreters are in demand.

This 13-week course,

taught by Michigan State Court Certified Interpreter Evelyn Villarruel, begins Sept. 19. Villarruel prepares students to successfully pass the written part of the exam (with an 80 percent or higher), after which they are invited to take the oral portion, which includes Sight Translation, Consecutive Interpreting and Simultaneous Interpreting.

"Although Michigan's economy is down, we continue to see job postings for interpreters, both in the legal and the medical fields," Villarruel said.

An interpreter since 2005, she works in district and circuit courts in Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw and Livingston counties and is an interpreter trainer for Oakland County.

Villarruel said the pay scale for interpreters depends on training and certification and can range between \$25 and \$75 per hour.

Madonna's court interpreter class costs \$499 and meets 7-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Students must demonstrate fluency in Spanish upon enrolling.

Madonna is at 36600 Schoolcraft Road. The open house will be held in Room 1310.

To RSVP for the open house, email jureel@madonna.edu or call 734-432-5804.



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LOCAL TEAM EXCELS AT ULTIMATE DODGEBALL REGIONAL - PAGE B2

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

TSMITH@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 734-469-4128

Meissen eager to begin new role



According to Dr. Michael Meissen, new superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, athletics are an important extension of the classroom. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New P-CCS superintendent ready to tackle athletic issues head-on as 2013-14 school year looms

> By Tim Smith Staff Writer

There's a new team in town to join the Chiefs, Wildcats and Rocks.

It's "Team Meissen," as new Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Meissen — himself a high school and college football player — jumps into the "huddle" with teachers, students, coaches and parents.

The longtime principal of LaFollette High School in Madison, Wisc., is thrilled to be here. He also knows Michigan is as much of a football hotbed as Wisconsin.

To that end, he is fully aware that Plymouth and Salem will be playing in the annual "Black and Blue" game the opening night of the high school football season, Thursday, Aug. 29. He knows Canton also will be kicking the season off that evening at the Park, over at the junior varsity stadium.

"It's "Thursday Night Lights' and it's great that high school sports are beginning and it's fun and real important to what we do," Meissen said. "Both the boys and girls sports will kick into high gear here very soon and we're really excited about it because we've got great kids that do well. "I'll be a cheerleader for all of them. They're all part of the team here. And that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."

DR. MICHAEL MEISSEN

P-CCS superintendent

"May the best Plymouth-Canton (district) team win."

Color blind

But to him, all three teams will be winners that night.

"I'll be a cheerleader for all of them," he said. "They're all part of the team here. And that's the beauty of it. We're all on one team, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."

Meissen sees the entire picture coming into focus after just a short time at the helm.

He recently talked about being a sports guy in a sports town, but also spoke at length about current issues confronting the district's athletics program. Those included seriously looking at whether each of the three high schools should have an athletic director (currently, two ADs handle the entire college-like campus), as well as why coaches seem to be on a hotter seat than

See MEISSEN, Page B3



Balconi Invite a good test

Eight-team soccer tourney Saturday

> By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Some might call the Gary Balconi Invitational an opportunity for varsity boys soccer teams to get in some glorified scrimmages before the start of another season.

Don't call it that to the coaches of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams. To them, the Balconi Invite combines tradition with key competitive tests against tough opponents.

This year's tournament is

Aces

Area golfers have been enjoying plenty of hole-in-one success recently at Fox Hills in Plymouth. Following is a list of golfers who sank their tee shots:

 » Tom Millar, 72, of Northville, used a 9-iron to ace the 128-yard No. 5 hole at the Woodlands course Aug. 8. He used a Titleist and scored 41.

» John Yowell, 70, of Westland, used a Calloway Driver to ace the 163-yard No. 4 hole at the Strategic Fox course Aug. 4. He used a Noodle for his shot and finished with 75.

ished with 75. » Tomoji Yamamoto, 61, of Rochester, used a 7-iron to ace the 141-yard No. 3 hole at the Woodlands course July 27. He used a Bridgestone and finished with a round of 87. » John F. Greacen,

» John F. Greacen, of Plymouth, used a 9-iron to ace the 102-yard No. 11 hole at the Strategic Fox course July 27. He used a Titleist and finished with a score of 64.

 » Janni Ruark, of Plymouth, used a
 5-wood and Pinnacle ball to ace the 135yard No. 6 hole at the Golden Fox course July 26 and scored 94 for the day.
 » Mike Piazza, 34,

» Mike Piazza, 34, of Dexter, used a 4-iron and Titleist Pro VIX ball to ace the 193-yard No. 6 hole at the Golden Fox course July 24.

» Mike Ulaszek, 43, of Livonia, used a 9-iron to ace the 149-yard No. 14 hole at the Golden Fox course July 17. He used a Titleist Pro V ball and scored 39.

O&E men's golf signup The O&E men's golf tournament, a 36-hole, two-day medal play event, will be Sunday, Sept. 1, at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 W. Seven Mile Road, and Monday, Sept. 2, at Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20500 Newburgh Road, Livonia.



Canton football players run through a spirited 'Hoot-and-Holler' drill during the first practice day with full pads. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Let's get crackin'

Sights and sounds of football's return fill the air at P-CEP

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

The sounds of the season began in earnest Thursday.

On the opening day of full-pad workouts, Canton football players' shoulder pads were cracking.

The players also were "hooting and hollering" their way through the spirited, free-for-all 4-vs.-4 practice drill — and yelling encouragement amid whistle tweets.

"We're still working on putting our offense and defense in and just working on our basic drills to be able to execute those things," Chiefs varsity head coach Tim Baechler said. "On the first day of pads, the boys do a little 'Hoot-and-Holler' session,

See CAMP, Page B3



Canton assistant football coach Dave Smilo (right) talks to a player about a practice drill Thursday. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO slated to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, with eight teams going at it simultaneously on four fields at the Park. Contests will take place at the varsity soccer field, turf field, varsity practice field and freshman field

"Getting a chance to see other top teams really gives you a chance to see how talented your team can be or, in some cases, it can serve to be a gauge for the level that your teams need to reach to be very successful," said Salem first-year varsity coach Scott Duhl, a player for the Rocks back in the mid-1990s, when the Balconi launched as a four-team invite. "It's really a great way to start off the season."

Concurring was Canton's new coach, Mark Zemanski.

"I really like the idea of playing in the Balconi tournament before the season gets under way," Zemanski said. "We get to play against quality competition that we don't face in the KLAA regular season. This type of competition shows you what you need to work on as a team to get ready for the upcoming season."

In addition to Canton and Salem, Plymouth will again take part. Other squads on the docket include Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake

See INVITE, Page B4

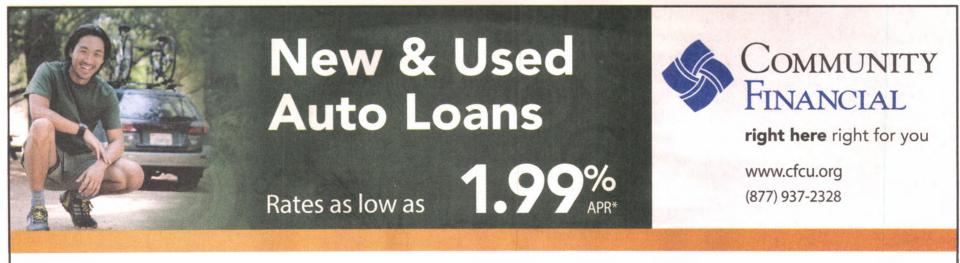
Tee times start at 8 a.m. both days.

The cost is \$95 for two days (power cart extra) with four different flights offered, including championship, first, senior (55-and-over) and junior (17-andunder).

You must have a current USGA Index to participate (maximum handicap of 20). There will be \$2,500 in guaranteed prizes, including both low gross and net winners. Entries, will close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24. To download a

registration form, visit golflivonia.com.

For pairings and starting times, call 248-476-4493 (Whispering Willows) or 248-471-3400 (Fox Creek).



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LOCAL SPORTS

Team tops field at dodgeball regional

Vegas dream falls short

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Could what happens in Canton go to Vegas? That almost was the case for members of 1 Time, winners of the recent Ultimate Dodgeball Qualifier at Sky Zone in Canton.

The team, thanks to topping a field of 20

teams Aug. 3, had a chance to compete for up to \$50,000 in prizes at the Ultimate Dodgeball Championship, Sept. 21-22 in Las Vegas, Nev.

But it was not to be. Sky Zone used the winning percentage of each team in regionals across the country to determine seven of the final eight teams going to Vegas. All of the teams who made the cut had a 100-percent win rate, while 1 Time owned one just under 80

percent

For the eighth Las Vegas qualifier, a social media contest took place on Facebook, where fans could vote for their favorite team, a Sky Zone spokesman noted.

He added that, in order to be in that Facebook contest, teams needed to have already won their local qualifier. Still, what the team

accomplished proved to be quite a rush.

With the victory, the team received a trophy that will be displayed at Sky Zone and each member collected a \$100 gift card

Most Valuable Player Mike Bohnett came away with a one-night golf spree at Grand Traverse Resort.

Potential trips and prizes are great, but so is the sport itself, according to 1 Time captain Rick Lape of Tecumseh.

"I personally got into Extreme Dodgeball for the excitement, the adrenaline rush and the competitive nature of it," Lape said. "A lot of people can throw, catch and dodge, but there is a lot more to it."



Throwing front-to-back during the recent Ultimate Dodgeball Qualifier at Sky Zone in Canton are Mike Bohnett, Rick Holtz and T.J. Juarez.

Lape, along with Bohnett, Rick Holtz, T.J. ings of five teams). Then it was on to "one-Juarez, Tommy Freudenand-done" single elimberg and Chad Wonderly, ination and 1 Time came through yet again, deround-robin action at Sky spite it being the first tourney the team ever They combined efcompeted in on trampoforts to knock off the

lines. "Communicating as a team is probably the biggest asset," Lape said. "We have played court dodgeball for about three years in rec leagues and charity events.

"However, (Aug. 3) was the first time for any of us on trampolines."

Another plus is the team is a tight-knit group of guys from southeast Michigan. Four players hail from Tecumseh, with one player each from Britton and Saline.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

97TH MICHIGAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR Plymouth alum Thompson just misses Final Four

rolled through early

other four teams in pool

top eight records follow-

(there were four group-

play, having one of the

ing the round-robins

Zone.

The Final Four field at the 97th Michigan Women's Amateur at Walnut Hills Country Club nearly included a recent Plymouth High School graduate

Members of Ultimate Dodgeball regional champion 1 Time

are (from left) Mike Bohnett, Rick Holtz, Rick Lape, T.J.

Juarez, Tommy Freudenberg and Chad Wonderly.

Matchups for Friday's Final Four were set after Thursday's second and third rounds of match play

Aya Johnson (Muskegon) was scheduled to meet Christine Meier

(Rochester Hills), while Jennifer Elsholz (Grand Rapids) was to square off against Hailey Hrynewich (Muskegon).

Hrynewich's thirdround match versus Plymouth grad Sarah Thompson (Canton) went to 19 holes. Hrynewich said she never got flustered and just patiently waited for Thompson to make a mistake. "She was 1-up for a



few holes on the back nine," Hrynewich said. "I knew I needed to beat her on 18 and I did it with a good par. Then on 19, I got on the green and she didn't.

Meier also had a long day of golf Thursday, as both of her matches went extra holes. Her morning match against Michigan State University teammate Liz Nagle went 19 holes and her afternoon match against future Spartan Jacqueline Setas (East Lansing) went 20 holes

"I've gone extra holes before in this tournament, but never twice in one day," Meier said. "I am going home and going to bed now!"

Meier said both matches were very tough and that all three golfers were playing very, very



Sarah Thompson putts during Thursday match play.

knew it was going to take birdies to win," Meier said. "Then to go against Jackie, who was playing well, it was tough. I had two tough matches today.'

It is also the first time in match play for Elsholz, who admitted she was more than a little nervous in the first round of the day. "When I was going into my second match,

my dad pointed out that I was in the top eight, which is pretty cool, and told me just to go out and have fun," Elsholz said. "So that's what I did. But I think I almost gave my mom a heart attack in the first match."

Johnson credited her

I chipped in twice (Thursday), so I feel like the short game overall is finally there."

A teammate of Thompson's with the 2012 Division 1 state champion Wildcats, Kelsey Murphy, was defeated in the second round by Ella

well

"The first match with Liz was mentally draining because we were both playing well and

stellar short game for propelling her to victory in both of her matches. "My putter was on fire," Johnson said. "And Pendy (Grosse Pointe Farms). The 97th Michigan Women's Amateur is sponsored by Palace Sports & Entertainment.

Senior Moments capture bronze at national women's softball tournament

By Ed Wright Staff Writer

Members of the Senior Moments 55-plus women's softball team proved last month in Cleveland that you're as young as you feel - and field.

Competing in the National Senior Games against 15 other highachieving 55-and-older women's softball teams, the Moments showed they can field, hit and

pitch with the best of them as they earned a bronze medal in the tournament's AAA division.

Several Observerlandarea women played pivotal roles for the Moments, including Redford's Kim Baldwin, Livonia's Peggy Backus, Canton's Nancy Eggenberger, Westland's Sharon Vreeland, Farmington Hills' Ellen Rieth and **Farmington residents** Diane Brady, Marsha Crosby and Alice Duffy.

'We all play with and against each other in travel leagues around the Detroit area," said Baldwin, who has been competing in high-level softball leagues for several years.

"The team from Farmington wanted to enter the Michigan Olympic

Games, but they didn't have enough players, so they asked players from other teams to join them. After we won that, we decided to play in the national tournament.

"It was a fun experience. Some of the ladies on the team were firsttime players and others have been playing travel softball for a while. It was a good mix.'

After earning a gold medal in the Michigan tournament, the Moments carried a ton of momentum into Cleveland.

On July 22, they won their first three pool-play games over teams from California, Arizona and North Carolina before falling to the Maryland Roadrunners, who went on to capture the gold

medal.

One day after playing four games - which is a lot for a 25-and-under team – the Moments dropped a medal-round game against the California Spirit.

Proving she can never get enough softball, Baldwin played in a national senior tournament in Riley, N.C., a week after the NSG event.

In addition to the Observerland-area players, the team included Milan's Jenny Criss, Oxford's Sue Johnson and Detroit residents Sonequa "Sneaky" Daniels, Denesia Jackson, Cheryl Ollison, Tresa Robinson, Carol Rogers, Toni Simpson, Janice Strozier and Lou Sykes.

ewright@hometownlife.com

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PUBLIC NOTICE

To all residents and other interested parties: Agendas and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org . They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates in 2013: August 20, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 12 and December 10.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Nancy Conzelman Township Clerk

Special meetings should be scheduled for Tuesdays, unless otherwise posted.

Publish: August 18, 2013

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LOCAL SPORTS

O & E Media | Sunday, August 18, 2013 (CP) B3

Rice coaching legend Fracassa planning to enjoy final season

By Marty Budner Staff Writer

Al Fracassa's final season as Brother Rice's head football coach has attracted much attention. And rightfully so.

Fracassa is a coaching icon. Not only at Brother Rice, but across the state. The 80-year-old mentor also enjoys a high-profile reputation nationwide.

As he begins his final season – 57th overall, 54 years as a head coach, the past 45 as Rice – his passion for the game remains the same as it did when he played at old Detroit Northeastern High School and Michigan State University.

"My attitude is good and I'm happy overall," Fracassa said following his fourth day of practice for the 2013 football campaign, which his Warriors enter as the twotime defending Division 2 state champions.

"I don't think of this as my last year. I'm just going out and trying to enjoy coaching football. Football season is here and I'm ready to go. I still have that passion for the game.

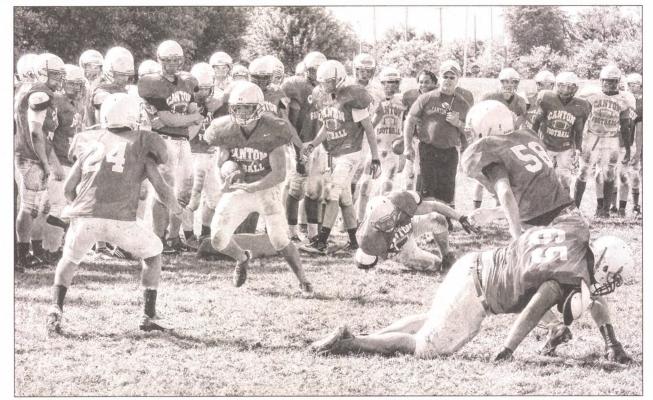
"It's a great game," he

added. "I have a lot of good kids on this team and a lot of good coaches who help me out. It's like a family we have here."

There was one major disappointment for Fracassa as practice got under way. On the very first day, junior Delano Madison broke a leg and will be out for the season.

"Everything went well this week except for the first day when Delano suffered his injury," Fracassa said. "He broke that same leg when he was younger. I feel bad for him. He will be missed." Fracassa enters his last year as the state's winningest coach with a 416-121-7 overall record. He is ranked seventh nationally in games won and is the 10th high school football coach in the country to have recorded 400 victories. The Hall of Fame

ine Hall of Fame coach has led Rice to eight MHSAA state titles and 14 Catholic League championships. He was named the National High School Coach of the Year in 2011 and was honored by the National Football League as the National Coach of the Year in 1997.



On Thursday, the Canton Chiefs (above) participated in the first day of full-pad workouts. Plymouth's Wildcats cranked it up on the other side of the Park, while Salem's gridders remained at a team-building camp at Adrian College. JOHN KEMSKI EXPRESS PHOTO

CAMP

Continued from Page B1

where it teaches getting off blocks, tackling, blocking and the kids have fun with it."

In just 11 days, Canton will be hitting and tackling for real. The opener is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29, against West Ottawa on the junior varsity field at Plymouth-Canton Education-

al Park.

According to Baechler, built into the first weeks of practice is preparing for that Week 1 opponent – and maybe start to tune up for Week 2 opponent Brighton.

So far, so good, as far as the opening week of official practices are concerned.

"The kids are great kids, they're working hard," Baechler said. "We've got a lot of depth on the offensive line, the defensive line. I'm thrilled with what I'm seeing right now."

Canton wasn't the only team sharpening up for the 2013 season Thursday at P-CEP.

Plymouth's Wildcats were busy doing the same on the west end of the sprawling campus. Meanwhile, Salem

Meanwhile, Salem wasn't even at the Park for the start of practices. The Rocks spent the week at Adrian College for a team-building

camp.

"It gives us a way to focus," Salem head coach Kurt Britnell said. "No outside interference, no cell phones. Just three and a half days of football."

Plymouth and Salem will face each other in the season opener at 7 p.m. Aug. 29 on P-CEP's varsity turf field.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Need tennis coach

Wayne Memorial High School needs a varsity boys tennis coach for the 2013 fall season. Interested candidates should contact Greg Ambrose at 734-419-2214 or email ambro-

seg@wwcs.k12.mi.us.

Franklin girls tennis

Girls interested in playing high school tennis for Livonia Franklin during the 2013-14 school year are asked to contact coach Rick Clack at 734-945-5762 or email him at clack@comcast.net.

Potential players are asked to leave their name and contact number in a voice message. There is off-season conditioning and offseason play during the summer and school year before the season.

Learn To Skate

Livonia Parks and Recreation will offer a seven-week Learn To Skate (Session I) each Monday from Sept. 9 through Oct. 21 at Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon (one-half mile south of Five Mile, just west of Farmington Road). Monday's class

Monday's class schedule includes: 5-5:25 p.m. (new, Snowplow Sam 1, 2 or 3; Basic 1 and intro to synchronized skating); 5:25-5:50 p.m. (Basic 1-8); 6-6:25 p.m. (new, Snowplow Sam 1, 2 or 3; Basic 1-3); 6:25-6:50 p.m. (hockey skills with no sticks or pucks used).

The fee is \$66 (Livonia residents) or \$69 (non-residents). All classes and time slots are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Free skate rental is available.

The registration deadline and early enrollment for last year's skaters is Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia, MI 48154. (There will be a \$10 late fee beginning Aug. 22.) You can also fax to 734-466-2679.

Registration for new students or missed mail-in will be 6:30-8 p.m. (residents) and 7-8 p.m. (non-residents) Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the LCRC. Other learn to skate classes offered include Session 2, Oct. 28 to Dec. 16 (preregistration deadline Oct. 16); and Session 3, Jan. 1 to March 3, 2014 (preregistration deadline Jan. 1)

will be held March 9-29, with show dates March 28-29. For more information, call 734-266-2412.

Rec soccer openings

The Michigan Hawks under-11 girls recreational soccer team needs a couple of players to complete its roster for the upcoming fall season.

The team plays in the WSSL and practices Monday nights (starting after Labor Day) at Jaycee Park in Livonia. The cost to play is \$75. Players should contact Doug Landefeld at either 660-473-6604 or dbradley1515@sbcglobal.net.

CYO soccer signup

The St. Edith athletic program is accepting registrations for its CYO fall soccer teams. Boys and girls entering grades 4-8 are eligible.

The program is open to those who attend St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Aidan and St. Kenneth parishes. For more information, contact Ron Wollenweber at stedithsoccer@gmail.com or visit www.stedithcyo.com.

Train with Tami golf

PGA professional Tami Bealert will offer a series of new summer and fall classes including Get Golf Ready, Get Golf Ready 2, ladies clinics and golf lessons at Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier Road, Superior Township.

The ladies clinics will be 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 and 22. (Invite a friend, sister, mother or daughter and receive a \$10 Golfsmith coupon.) The cost is \$25 for each one-hour class. Returning 2013 customers will receive a \$5 Train With Tami coupon for more lessons.

Course management, private one-on-one or small group lessons are also available by appointment. Private one-hour family lessons are also offered. For an appointment and pricing, call 734-731-0238.

Juniors (16-andunder) can also play golf for free with a

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS SOCCER

Friday, Aug. 23 Stevenson at Churchill, 5:30 p.m. Wayne at Hazel Park, 6 p.m Edsel Ford at Franklin, 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 Gary Balconi Invitational, 10 a.m. at PCEP VOLLEYBALL Thursday, Aug. 22 Plymouth at Salem, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 Portage Northern Invitational, 8 a.m. B.C. St. Pnilip Tournament, 8 a.m. Ladywood Tournament, 8:30 a.m. Airport Invitational, 8:30 a.m. W. Bloomfield Invitational, 8:30 a.m. Salem Invitational, TBA. Gabriel Richard Invitational, TBA. Bad Axe Tournnamet, TBA. CROSS COUNTRY Saturday, Aug. 24 South Lyon Inv. at Island Lake, 9:30 a.m. GIRLS SWIMMING Saturday, Aug. 24 at Howell Kenzie Classic, TBA Stevenson vs. Farm. Hills Mercy at Livonia Comm. Rec. Center, noon. GIRLS GOLF Thursday, Aug. 22 Highest Honors Invitational, 7:30 a.m. BOYS TENNIS Thursday, Aug. 22 Northville Quad, 8 a.m. COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Friday, Aug. 23 S'craft at Oakland CC Tourney, 11 a.m. MU at UM-Dearborn Early Bird, TBA. Saturday, Aug. 24 S'craft at Oakland CC Tourney, 9 a.m. MU at UM-Dearborn Early Bird, TBA. COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER Friday, Aug. 23 Cleary Univ. at Madonna, 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 Schoolcraft at Muskegon, 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 Schoolcraft at Lake Michigan, 1 p.m COLLEGE WOMEN'S SOCCER Friday, Aug. 23 Madonna at Taylor (Ind.), 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 Schoolcraft at Muskegon, 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 Schoolcraft at Lake Michigan, 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 Brock (Ontario) at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Ice show rehearsal

paying adult or guardian after 6 p.m. Monday through Friday or after 5 p.m. Saturday or Sunday. (You must present certificate from www.HickoryCreek-Golf.com. to receive discount.)

Visit www.TrainWith Tami.com.

MEISSEN

Continued from Page B1

ever before.

In the past few months alone, Plymouth High School's baseball and girls basketball coaches stepped down following apparent campaigns from players' parents, who sought a new voice and new direction. One of those situations reportedly cropped up after the coach cut a player following tryouts. Other coaches have decided the time was now to take a break from the sidelines as the pressure to win continues to mount.

Those situations involving coaches weren't all that plagued the district in 2012-13. Plymouth High School's varsity football team had an outstanding 2012 season spoiled due to a procedural oversight that resulted in the Michigan High School Athletic Association ruling that all wins had to be forfeited.

Keep perspective

About controversies involving coaches, Meissen said he wasn't around when those problems cropped up and did not want to discuss specific situations.

"I don't think it would be proper for me to comment about what has been," he said. "I'm focused on the future, looking forward."

But he wouldn't mind it if confrontations were given the boot and replaced by stronger collaborations involving parents and coaches.

Meissen understands expec-

tations are ratcheted up in today's world, particularly in highly competitive districts such as Plymouth-Canton, Farmington, Livonia, Northville and throughout the KLAA.

Teams are chasing championships. Players (and their parents) are eyeing college scholarships.

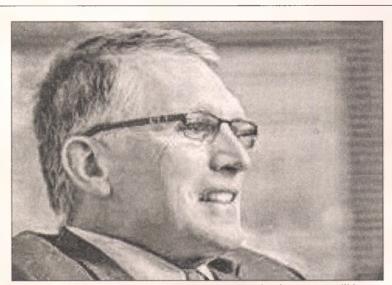
"Good coaches are teaching team principles, that's why you call it a team," Meissen said. "If you are a participant, obviously you're looking for individual gain and individual improvement, but for the benefit of the group.

"And then, parents sometimes — it's difficult to generalize — by focusing exclusively on the individual performance of their student, (it) runs counter to some of the team principles that the (coach) is trying to instill."

Just chill

But in situations where parents get upset about coaches and referees, for example, Meissen stressed the importance of stepping back from the action and allowing cooler heads to prevail.

"I think sometimes when there's so much emotionality involved in this and it's a competitive environment and it's a ballgame that's close down the stretch in a big gym, the intensity level is high – is everyone acting rationally?" he said. "A lot of times, it's like, take 24 hours and think about it and if you still feel upset about an individual decision a coach made about a game or a game situation, then most coaches I know would just say come talk



When football season opens on Aug. 29, Dr. Michael Meissen will be rooting for all three Park teams to succeed.

11.1

to me

"A lot of discussions can occur about individual things through proper channels."

When it comes to talking things out, it won't hurt to have the man at the top with personal experience in high school and college athletics to draw from. In fact, there very well could be parallels between what Meissen dealt with in his own football career and future challenges at P-CCS.

Never one to lose sight of his goals no matter how difficult — he lost two nearly two years off his college football career rehabbing from knee surgery — Meissen came back to play offensive guard as a junior at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

And now, as if steadfastly warding off a charging defender at the line of scrimmage, he is fervent in his mission to not undermine student develop-

ment.

Meissen's vision for P-CCS applies as much to what goes on in the classroom as it does to the stage, band room, gym or field.

"I think sports within a school setting, done properly, are an extension of what you're trying to accomplish as a school," Meissen said. "That it's a great laboratory for teaching and learning. That it truly is integrated into the academic environment that you're providing for students. Absolutely."

Time for three?

Another area demanding Meissen's attention on the eve of the 2013-14 year is whether the district needs to add a third athletic director, to enable each high school to have one go-to person.

That subject is on the table. Brodie Killian, the district's deputy superintendent of business and operations, said a comprehensive study is well under way — including key community meetings where parents, coaches and studentathletes could give input.

"We set up a series of meetings with all different stakeholder groups, including a couple forums with parents where they were able to provide us with a lot of input on this topic," Killian said. "And so that report will be done soon and into the hands of the superintendent and the board, which will kind of tie together a lot of issues."

No time frame was given about when such a report might be ready to be unveiled.

"It would be difficult to speculate what the time frame might be," Meissen said. "I want to follow a logical sequence. What is it that we're doing well, what is it that we have some problems? Is the answer related to our structure and the level of staff (two athletic directors for three high schools)?

"I do bring some perspective, having been a high school principal for a long time. I do bring some perspective that I think naturally would serve me well in the decision-making around this issue. And it's important and a priority."

Also a priority is getting his first year as the district's chief off to a strong start. In many ways, that year literally kicks off in less than two weeks.

You can bet Mike Meissen will be there to help make that happen.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

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LOCAL SPORTS

Crusaders poised for conference push

All-WHAC players Parent, Ferrick lead the way

By Brad Emons Staff Write

There's a slightly different air of anticipation entering the 2013 Madonna University women's soccer season.

"For sure, expectations are pretty high and I think they have high expectations of themselves, which make my job a lot easier," MU coach Jeff Hodgson said. "This is my fourth year and these are all of my recruits. We've gone from three wins, six wins to 11. And hopefully we'll always be in that 15-win year going forward."

The Crusaders finished with an 11-9 overall in 2012, including a 5-3 record en route to a fourth-place finish in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

The team's leading scorer, junior Ashley Parent (Amherstburg, Ontario), returns after scoring 18 goals and adding seven assists.

Junior forward Katlyn Krysiak (Madison Heights Lamphere), who tallied nine goals and three assists, will also be



Parent

Ferrick

counted on to provide offense, along with sophomore midfielder Jennifer Jurcak (Utica Eisenhower), who added seven goals and four assists.

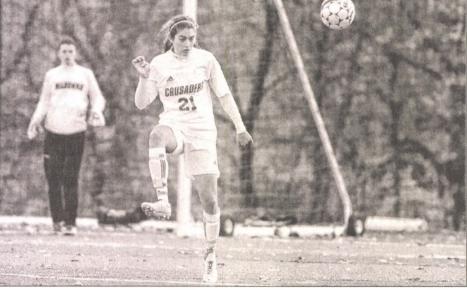
'She (Parent) is very motivated," Hodgson said. "She's been coming off an injury. If she stays healthy, she should be right around the same amount. And Katlyn Krysiak had nine goals and missed half of the season. Those two are pretty potent up front, for sure.'

Krysiak, however, may not be able to play in the season opener Friday at Taylor (Ind.) University

"She rolled her ankle pretty good, but we're not sure it's a sprain or a stress fracture," Hodgson said.

Senior Liliana Serratos (Dearborn), who started all 20 games at forward last season, adds depth up front.

Senior Amanda Ferrick (Warren Cousino), who recorded four goals and nine assists a year



Senior midfielder Amanda Jenaway (Livonia Stevenson) started all 20 games last year for the Madonna University women's soccer team. TIM BUSCH | TBSPORTPIX.COM

ago, will get help in the midfield from sophomore Kelly Capoccia (Livonia Ladywood), who transferred in from Grand Valley State after playing a reserve role on the Lakers' NCAA Division II Final Four team.

"Ferrick has been all-conference two of her three years," Hodgson said. "Capoccia will be one of our better players. With those two in the midfield, and if the people up front stay healthy, we should be fairly offensive."

Senior Amanda Jena-

way (Livonia Stevenson) will also help anchor the midfield after starting all 20 games in 2012.

Other midfielders vying for playing time are sophomore Morgan Himanek (Warren Regina), senior Kelsey Litt-man (Oxford), junior Mo DeGrandis (LaSalle, Ontario) and junior Kayla Szado (Livonia Churchill/Schoolcraft College) After losing Lauryn

Dostillo and Jackie Vaquera to graduation, Hodgson had to retool his defense.

"Our back line is fair-

ly seasoned with a senior. two juniors and a sophomore," he said. "We've had a couple of scrimmages already and we have a pretty smart, fast back line.'

Hodgson expects big things from Dayna Meloche, a sophomore from Amherstburg who missed nine games last year after suffering a broken foot.

"She's sort of a cata-lyst back there," he said. Kristin Black (Dear-

born Heights Crestwood), who started all 20 games last year, joins

Lindsay McMullen (Churchill/Schoolcraft) and freshman Taylor Kelly (Lamphere) as defenders

Sophomore Blaire Schmalenberg (Cousino) returns as the starter in goal after posting six shutouts. She posted a 1.34 goals against and .782 save percentage

She will be pushed by freshman newcomer Katrina Arnold (Essex, Ontario).

"Blaire had a great year last year," Hodgson said. "And Katrina has looked strong the past couple of days. Goalkeeping is definitely on the rise from a couple of

years ago." Hodgson, meanwhile, remains cautiously optimistic about his team's chances this fall in the WHAC.

"I don't know necessarily about our depth or if we're as deep as we need to be, but top 12 I'd put us up against anybody in the conference for sure," he said. "We should have some success this year, but we do have a hard schedule. Probably in the NAIA, we probably have the hardest schedule of any of the teams."

bemons@hometownlife.com 313-222-6851

Young swimmer breaks record

Kylie Goit of Canton made a record-breaking splash at the recent 14 & Under Central Zone Swim Meet in Geneva, Ohio.

Kylie, representing Team Michigan at the Aug. 2-4 meet, set a new state record in the 10 & Under 100-meter freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 5.23 seconds.

That time bested the previous record of 1:05.35, established in 1990

She also finished first in the 100 backstroke and 200 individual medley and collected silver med-



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Lady Ocelots expect to challenge again

By Brad Emons Staff Writer

Success is always measured in titles when it comes to the Schoolcraft College women's soccer program.

The Lady Ocelots snagged their second straight Michigan Community College Athletic Association crown last year with a 7-0-1 record, but coach Deepak Shivraman's 14-4-2 team fell short in the NJCAA Region 12 tournament, losing to Delta College on penalty kicks in a semifinal match.

"It's always high at Schoolcraft," said Shivraman, now entering his seventh season. "The

now with several teams - Muskegon, Delta, Toledo Owens and a couple of other teams. And definitely getting a push to nationals, but it's a long journey from now until October so ..."

NAIA power Martin Methodist (Tenn.) signed three players off last year's Schoolcraft team, which finished second during the regular season in NJCAA Region 12 with a 9-1-2 record.

Lost to graduation was second-team All-**Region and All-MCCA** selection Lauren Badalamente and MCAA honorable mention pick Anthoula Papaioannou.

All-Region and All-

forward, will be immense.

"We think we can score the goals, but Lauren was just a phe-nomenal athlete," Shivraman said. "She was such a beast ... strong, aggressive with a nofear kind of an attitude. Sometimes you miss that because on the other side you have the stat players. They're good players and they're special, but they don't like to get dirty, whereas Lauren just enjoyed that. She enjoyed that part of the game, the physicality of

The cupboard, however, is far from bare as Shivraman returns the

along with Lisa McMullen (Livonia Churchill), Erin McKay (Rochester Hills) and Maggie McLaughlin (Grosse Ile).

Returning in the midfield will be Samantha Jarrett (Northville), an honorable mention All-MCCAA selection, along with Alexis Walker (White Lake Lakeland).

Forward Taylor Bunyak (Anchor Bay) also returns for her second season.

Among the promising newcomers are forwards Remy Houttekier (Bloomfield Hills Andover), Alexi Cano (Riverview) and Jessica Perry (Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes); center midfielder Kelly McKay Rochester Hills); midfielder Tayault (Novi); and lor P dr ler Kate Farthing J Lake Western). () my has a hard sh a rocket, and we she scores some ho " Shrivman said. go

als in three individual events (50 backstroke, 50 butterfly and 200 freestyle) and two relays.

For her versatile and spectacular efforts, Kylie — a member of the **Plymouth-Canton Cruis**ers — finished in a tie for high point honors for the meet.



Kylie Goit of Canton displays her impressive haul of medals recently earned at the 14 & Under **Central Zone Swim Meet in** Geneva, Ohio.

standards set forth before I got there and the previous years with Bill Tolsted's programs. The same thing after I had taken over ... the players have really set a pretty high standard. We expect nothing less thee winning the league again. We have a league

MCCAA midfielder Rachel Blackney (Livoni (Churchill) also opted 'o forgo her second vi ar at Schoolcraft to s gn with Martin Methodist, along with Papaioannou and Badalamente.

The loss of Badalamente, a dangerous

top-notch 1-2 goalkeeping punch of All-Region and All-MCCA pick Tara Gessler (Brighton) and Alexis Smith (Livonia Franklin).

Second-team Ali-**Region and All-MCCAA** choice Chelsea Meador (Brighton) will help anchor the defense,

INVITE

Continued from Page B1

Western, University of

Donate A Boat

Detroit-Jesuit and Dearborn Heights Crestwood. Second-round games will begin at 11:45 p.m.,

with final championship and consolation games

slated for 3 p.m.

Unlike regular, 80minute games, however, the Balconi matches are 60 minutes long — the proper length for players

HOST AN EXCHA

who are still amping up for the start of the regular schedule the week beginning Aug. 26. "Part of the day is really just gutting it out

and fighting fatigue," Duhl said. "It is truly a est mentally as well as hysically for all the ams involved."

he sked

Following is the Balcoi schedule:

- » Game 1: Salem vs.
- tholic Central (10 a.m.,
- cer stadium); Game 2:
- mouth vs. W.L. North-
- (10 a.m., turf field); e

ne 3: Crestwood vs. G W.L. Western (10 a.m., practice field); Game 4: Canton vs. U of D-Jesuit (10 a.m., freshman field);

» Game 5: Winners of

games 1-2 (11:45 a.m., soccer stadium); Game 6: Consolation, games 3-4 (11:45 a.m., turf field); Game 7: Consolation, games 1-2 (11:45 a.m., practice field); Game 8: Winners of games 3-4 (11:45 a.m., freshman field);

» Game 9: Winners of games 5-8 (3 p.m., soccer stadium); Game 10: Winners of games 6-7 (3 p.m., turf field); Game 11: Consolation, games 6-7 (3 p.m., practice field); Game 12: Consolation, games 5-8 (3 p.m., freshman field).

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHP POLICE DEPT. 734 354-3232 NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

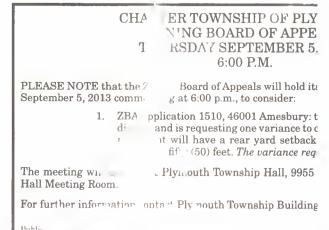
Notice is hereby given that on 8/23/2013, at 10:00 a.m., Mayflower Auto Transport, 1179 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170, a public auction of the following:

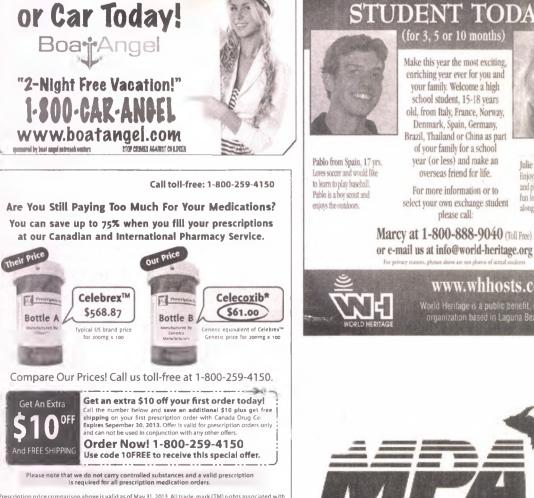
005	Mercury Sable	
000	Chevy Blazer	
003	Kia Spectra	
993	Chevy Lumina	
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Dated: 8/14/2013 Publish: August 18, 2013







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Julie from Denmark, 16 yrs. along with

Marcy at 1-800-888-9040 (Toll Free)

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Publis

COMMUNITY LIFE B5 (CP) SUNDAY,

AUGUST 18, 2013

CANINE WITH CANCER CARRIES ON PET THERAPY WORK

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Chet, 6, and Talon, 8, welcome customers to Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City with wagging tails and grins.

Sometimes, they drop their toys at a visitor's feet. Or open the gate to the lobby with their noses and hunker down at a client's side.

The two golden retrievers, who are pet therapy dogs, are lovable fixtures at the shop on Ford Road near Merriman, owned by their "mom" Lisa Jacques.

"My regulars have known them since they were babies," Jacques said, during an interview last week at the shop.

"There is not a day they aren't here except Saturday, because it's so busy for us. If I'm working on a customer's dog, they'll come out (to the lobby) and be with the people. The customers touch them and play with them."

These days, her clients also donate toward Chet's medical treatment. Jacques' employee, Tera Howard, placed a collection jar in the shop and the lobby is decorated with boneshaped signs sporting names of contributors. Chet was diagnosed with lymphoma last October and takes chemotherapy treatment at the Animal Cancer & Imaging Center in Canton.

Jacques is grateful for her customers' financial support and kind words and for the care Chet receives at the center

"They ask me eve \downarrow time they come in how he's doing," she said. "It's nice that people are so thoughtful. People put in a dollar or two and anything helps. I put it toward our bill."

Costly care

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Jacques figures she and her husband, Frank, have spent

approximately \$10,000 on Chet's treatment and care since he was diagnosed.

"When he first started, he went once a week for chemo and in February, ended his treatment. He was in remission but came out of it. It's tough, he goes in and out of remission," she said. "Each chemo is different. The chemo we're doing now is a longer chemo, a drip. It's almost \$700 (per session) and there is one every three weeks."

Previous weekly treatments cost \$300-\$600, Jacques said. They also pay for blood work done between each chemo session. Talon accompanies Chet to every treatment as a "support" dog.

Jacques has owned five golden retrievers and lost two of them to cancer. In both cases, the prognosis wasn't good and the dogs were put down shortly after diagnosis.

"I didn't go through anything then, like I'm going through now. It has taken a toll on us physically, financially and mentally."

She said they continue to do everything they can for Chet because he seems to thrive in spite of the cancer.

"He runs, plays and swims. He is being himself. If he was sick all the time and lethargic and couldn't be Chet, we wouldn't do this. He is living a full life. He's young and could still have another seven years."

Pet therapy

Jacques admits she spoils her dogs. They go "everywhere" with the couple, including on vacation to "grand-ma's and grandpa's" house in Traverse City. They have their own chairs at home and sleep on their owners' bed. Jacques' husband takes them to the park on weekends and as a couple, they take the dogs twice

Lisa Jacques adjusts Chet's pet therapy bandana. PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

monthly to Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor with Pet-a-Pet, the pet therapy organization. They also visit seniors at St. Christopher Church in Detroit.

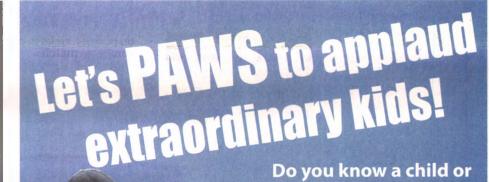
"They are a very dedicated couple and both their dogs do pet therapy with us. I think it helps the patients considerably knowing Chet is going through this," said Mary Chamberlain, Pet-a-Pet's facility coordinator for Heritage Hospital. "They know the dog is going through life-threatening issues of his own and yet he takes time to see them and makes people happy

"He wags his tail and shows how happy he is to be there," Chamberlain said, adding "and (chemo) is not an easy treat-

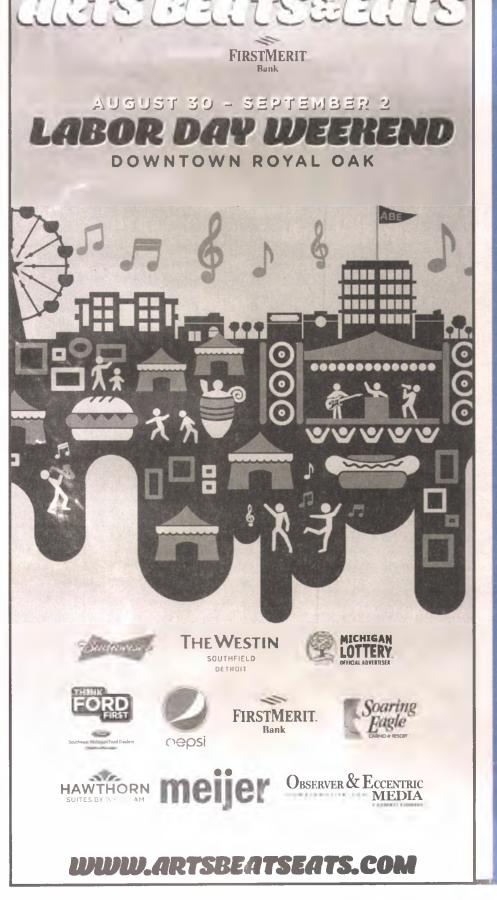
See THERAPY, Page B6

Tera Howard, a groomer at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City, came up with the donation jar to help pay for Chet's chemotherapy.





OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA HOMETOWN LIFE.COM



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Do you know a child or teenager who goes above and beyond to make your community, neighborhood, or family better?

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Email your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com Subject line: "PAWS FOR APPLAUSE"

Please include the child's name, age, phone number and address.

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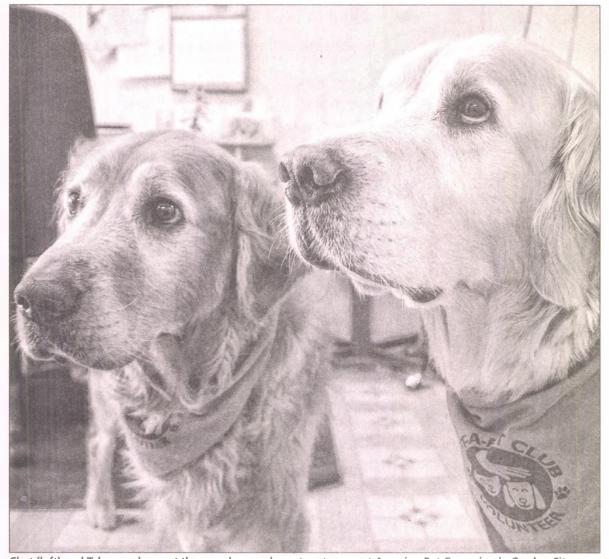
Game Date

Sunday,

September 1



Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.



Chet (left) and Talon work as pet therapy dogs and greet customers at Amazing Pet Grooming in Garden City. Talon, also accompanies Chet to his chemotherapy treatments. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

THERAPY

Continued from Page B5

ment."

Chamberlain said Chet has missed his therapy visits just once since he was diagnosed.

As pet therapy dogs, Chet and Talon mostly visit the rehab unit at the hospital, where they stand at bedsides and welcome pats and strokes from patients. Jacques said Chet's vets agree that it's a good idea to keep him engaged and active. She said pet therapy also gives the couple a way to "give back" to others.

"We struggle in our life, but we've had good fortune. We're healthy and have great friends and family. There are a lot of people who don't have that. They are lonely and it makes us happy to bring our dogs and give someone a smile," she said. "I've always done pet therapy and I love it. It's therapy to me. I get to see my friends and the dogs get to see their friends. It's social and everyone has the same goal — to make someone else's day."

Contact Jacques by calling the shop at 734-422-2660.

Fall fashion show benefits historic house

Get a look at new fall clothing at the 44th annual Fall Fashion Show To Benefit the Longacre House, noon Thursday, Sept. 26, at Glen Oaks Country Club, 30500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Models will wear fashions from The Clothing Cover in Milford and The Gap Orchard Place and sport hairstyles by The Studio for Hair in Farmington Hills.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. for a shopping boutique, with the luncheon and fashion show set for noon. Proceeds from the event will go toward restoration and upkeep of the historic Longacre House, an elegant Georgianstyle mansion acquired by the City of Farmington Hills in 2006.

Extensive renovations have been made to the home, which was originally built in 1869.

The Longacre House is a popular venue for weddings, showers, special events, and programs such as Victorian teas, cooking shows, and music lessons.

Tickets to the Fall Fashion

Show To Benefit the Longacre House are \$40. Call 248-477-8404 or mail checks made out to "Friends of the Parks" to The Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

The fashion show is sponsored by Friends of the Parks, a nonprofit community service organization that sponsors projects that promote and enhance the City of Farmington Hills park system. To view a slide show or virtual "mini-tour" of the Longacre House, go to www.longacrehouse.org.

Well, here comes another front-loader story

ecently, Ruth Spencer of WDIV-TV (Channel 4) did a story about the ongoing class action suit against the Whirlpool Corp. regarding the mold and odor issue with its front-load washing machines. This was the second time that Spencer has tackled the problem, having been through this herself some five years ago, at which time she reported to her viewing audience. She also did a radio interview with me, at which time she said, "I will load this washer on a flatbed truck and drive to Benton Harbor and dump it on the front lawn of Whirlpool headquarters." I assume that Whirlpool took care of this consumer.

Some years ago, when the concept of the frontload washer was first being introduced as the energy saver of tomorrow, I took issue and wrote about it in my columns several times. I wrote, "You can't wash your hands properly in a tea cup of water and you can't wash clothes using eight gallons of water. This washer will have problems with odors because it doesn't drain off all the water when it's done.'

The result of making a statement like that years ago has brought forth a ton of comments from homeowners. I would wager that more than 2,000 owners of the front-load machines have complained directly to me about how much they hate their front-loaders. Some have even given them away and purchased top-loaders. One guy even bought a 20-year-old GE to replace his 4-year-old washer. The stories are many and nine out of 10 are on the very negative side. Once in a while, I hear from someone who loves their front-loader and I say, God bless her.

A little history lesson here — the U.S. Department of Energy got involved and issued mandates on energy consumption to the appliance industry. The front-load concept was going strong in European countries and Maytag used the engineers from other countries to develop a product for use in the



U.S.A

In the first few years of production by Maytag, a recall was announced to solve the mold and odor problem on several million of the front-loaders already being used by people who had made the expensive purchase. Maytag was purchased by Whirlpool, which paid a lot of money for this existing problem.

Today, a class action suit is going on against Whirlpool and other manufacturers. It is apparent that there is a defect in the manufacturing process. In the end, we will know who the guilty parties are. It is my belief and that of many other service technicians that the Maytag washer of old was the best machine ever made. Many of the old top-loaders are still in use today and I know of one that lasted 54 years. Please don't ever think that the appliance retailers wouldn't love to have this type of quality once again on their sales floors.

It used to be very easy to make friends with a retail customer and not so easy to do today. Let me give you a quote from Fred Louis Maytag, the first president of Maytag back in the very early 20th century: "A grave responsibility rests upon us in respecting the public's confidence. We must maintain the quality of our products in every respect. We must give them more because they expect more." Not to make light of this, I must say the Mr. Maytag must be rolling in his grave.

For those of you who believe you have a mold and odor issue with your front-loader, you can contact the legal firm of Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, based in Nashville, Tenn. The telephone number is 800-254-2660.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. each Saturday on WAAM-AM (1600). You can email him at appldr@twmi.rr.com.

INTROLEUMINI

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Be aware of learning disabilities this new school year

ccording to the Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan some 91,000 students in the state's special education programs have a learning disability.

By definition, the term "specific learning disability" applies when a student whose achievement in one or more of the basic learning areas of reading, writing or arithmetic is substantially below that which is expected, given the child's chronological age, intellectual level and grade placement. This also assumes that the learning disorder is not due to other reasons such as cognitive impairment (low IQ), emotional impairment or other physical health impairments (ADHD, seizure disorder, traumatic brain Injury, etc.).

A psychologist gives standardized reading, writing and arithmetic achievement tests and a standardized intelligence



test to diagnose a learning disability. Approximately, 5 percent of students in the public schools in the United States are now identified as having specific learning disabilities.

Some causes of leaOrning disabilities may be genetic, neurological, the result of birthing problems or perinatal exposure to alcohol, other drugs, nicotine or some medicines. Some may be from exposure to lead poisoning during formative years. Interestingly, boys seem to outnumber girls by 3-1 in learning disabilities.

Misunderstandings

Over the past 30 years, I have worked with learning

disabled children and their parents and found that most of them do not understand that the child is not retarded, lazy, or crazy. Also, in conducting approximately 1,000 Social Security Disability determination evaluations each year, for the past 20 years, I have seen numerous cases of learning disability in people who have also developed maladaptive emotional/functioning and behavior disorders due to misunderstandings by themselves and their families of what learning disability is and what it is not.

Some people believe that special attention needs to be given by teachers, parents and friends of the learning disabled student to educate them about what their disability is. The misunderstandings can often be more devastating than the learning disabilities. These include low self-esteem, poor

REUNIONS

self-image, conduct problems, delinquency, and a high dropout rate. It has been shown that there is a disproportionate number (up to 70 percent) of our prison population vs. our general population with diagnosable specific learning disabilities.

Considerations

Perhaps this sad state of affairs can be deterred by having psychotherapeutic groups within schools for learning disabled students, and their families, wherein they can see that they are "not the only one." They can learn ways to support each other, gain understanding about their problems and find ways to compensate for them. Learning alternative ways of gaining self-esteem, through sports, social programs and recreational activities, can aid in deterring the only thing worse

than a learning disability, which is having a misunderstanding of their problem and a misguided opinion of themselves.

Resources

» Help is available within school systems; ask for a consultation with the child's teacher and the school district's psychologist to learn more about what can be done.

» The Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan is at: www.ldaofmichigan.org

L.J. McCulloch is a Diplomat of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is certified in brain injury, mental health, addictions, and social work. His monthly colu mn, "Our Mental Health" is archived at: www.farmlib.org/heritage collection/newspapers.htlm. He can be reached at 248-474-2763, Ext. 22.

Send reunion information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

FERNDALE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

A 40-year reunion is set from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, Nov. 29, at the Iroquois Club, 43248 N Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Call 248-451-9653. Tickets are \$75 presale only. Includes dinner, dancing, good times. Get tickets from www.73fhs40.reunionmanager.com. Join the reunion Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/503456823023714 Reunion contact is Sande Easterwood Rouke.

GARDEN CITY CLASS OF 1983

A reunion is set for Sept. 21 at Roma Banquet Hall, Garden City. Cost is \$50 per person. Make checks payable to Karen Boyd and mail to her at 28445 Bock, Garden City, MI 48135.

GARDEN CITY EAST-WEST CLASS OF 1973

A 40th reunion will be held Oct. 5 at The Henry Ford and Best Western-Greenfield Inn. Register on: www.eventbrite.com/event/7527708579. Email 1973gcreunion@gmail.com. Call or text: Donna Sly at 734-552-0485

LIVONIA BENTLEY **CLASS OF 1966**

A birthday reunion will be held Friday, Oct. 11, at the Marriott, 17100 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia. Call 734-462-3100. Check-in and cash bar at 6 p.m., buffet dinner at 7 p.m., followed by dancing and DJ. Cost is \$65 per person. Email Kathy Sindon Shinn at theshinns2@att.net.

CLASS OF 1973

A reunion is set from 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 13, at Livonia Marriott, located at Six Mile and Newburgh. Tickets are \$60 for alumni and \$50 for teachers. The event is also open to other classes Contact Marcia Elliott at 269-327-0657 or email mickey55@chartermi.net for ticket information.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN CLASS OF 1966

A golf outing and/or lunch is planned for Saturday, Aug. 24, at Fox Creek Golf Course in Livonia. Golf scramble starts at 8 a.m., with lunch at 2 p.m. Contact Lruzsas187264mi@comcast.net or call 810-599-3509 for reservations.

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963

A 50-year reunion luncheon is planned for Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Sheraton Novi. Contact mercy.hs.1963@gmail.com or call J. Quainte at 734-776-2561

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1968

A 45-year class reunion is planned for Saturday, Sept. 7. For more information, contact Susan Keith Johnson at sgjohnson4@comcast.net.

REDFORD THURSTON CLASSES OF 1970S

A Best of the 70s reunion is planned for Aug. 24 at Whispering Willows Golf Course/ Tin Cup Bar & Grill, 20500 Newburgh, Livonia. Tickets are \$25 per person and include hors d'ouevres, gratuity, music, keg beer, coffee bar and prizes. Cost is \$40 at the door. All alumni welcome. For tickets and more information, email tschmidtke3147@vahoo.com or visit Thurston 73 on Facebook

REDFORD UNION CLASS OF 1963

A 50th class reunion is set for Oct. 19. Looking for former classmates. For more information, contact Jamie (Stafanson) Fraley at fraleymj66@yahoo.com.

CLASS OF 1973

A 40th reunion is planned for 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Burton Manor Banquet Center, 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia. For reservations, visit www.ruhsclassof1973.com or contact Debi Cutshall at debi.k.cutshall@gmail.com

SOUTHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL **CLASS OF 1973**

A 40th reunion is planned for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Westin Hotel-Southfield, 1500 Town Center. Dinner tickets are \$89 and include food stations and a cash bar. Other weekend activities include a casual meet/greet Friday, golf outing option Saturday morning and a tour of the school and brunch Sunday. Register at www.southfieldhigh1973.com.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1973

The 40th reunion will include a picnic from 3-9 p.m. and an after-party from 9 p.m. to midnight Aug. 24. For more information, visit the reunion Facebook page: JGHS Class of 1973, Westland, or contact Carol Bevard at BevardC@aol.com or Karen Gooze at meowmom4@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1983

From 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Oct. 26, at Burton Manor Banquet and Conference Center, Livonia. Tickets are on sale now. The early bird price, before Sept. 7, is \$65 per person or \$120 per couple; after that date it's \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. The price includes a strolling dinner and open bar with DJ. Make checks payable to Brian Baker, JGHS Class of '83 Reunion and send to P.O. Box 0876, Wayne, MI 48184. For more information, email Linda Harbison at jghs.1983@gmail.com.



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COOK - FULL TIME Senior Retirement Community in Livonia is looking for a full time cook. Responsible, punc-tual with positive attitude and the ability to work well with and supervise staff. Must be Safe Served Certified with at least two years previous expe rience in kitchen, hotel or res taurant operation. Food prepa ration skill must be adequat ration skill must be adequate to prepare required menu cy-cles while maintaining stand-ards of cleanliness & sanitation. Fax resume to (248)449-1422 or apply in person at Oakmont Northville 42000 Seven Mile (248) 449-1480 Full & part time. Apply in per-son: The Box Bar & Grill, 777 W Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth Mi •COOKS •WAITSTAFF •BARTENDER Exp. a must. Apply in person: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville. JOE'S PRODUCE **GOURMET MARKET** is currently looking applications for Professional Cake Decorator Must be talented, energeti and be experience with all types of cake design Apply in person, include me and if possible 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia JOE'S PRODUCE **GOURMET MARKET OPENINGS!!** is currently taking applications for entergetic • Deli Counter Help · Pastry- Closing Help Meat Counter · Cashiers Please apply in person at: 33152 W. 7 Mile Rd., Livonia WAITSTAFF Positions avail. on Mackinac Island, MI Mary's Bistro and 1852. Housing available and Маскила als. Now thru October (906) 847-7196 Reach even more potential

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ADVERTISING ACCOUNT

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Observer and Eccentric Media is looking for an Account Executive for the Novi/Northville, MI Territory. This position will work out of the South Lyon, MI location. We are also looking for an Account Executive for the Birmingham, MI Territory. This position will work out of the Sterling Heights, MI location

RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is responsible for all sales and related activities to advertisers within an assigned geographic territory. Will mainly be servicing businesses with the opportunity to sell into the Hometown Weeklies, Observer & Eccentric publications and DMP products. Primary responsibility is managing the territory to achieve sales quotas and developing new business. The Account Executive will develop strategies, make presentations to new and existing advertisers and be responsive to customer needs. Sales orders, reports and documentation are prepared for management's review.

REQUIREMENTS: An Associate's degree and two years of sales experience and/or equivalent. Bachelor's degree preferred. Professional communication, presentation and organizational skills are required. Must be highly motivated, analytical, detail-oriented and able to work under deadline pressure. Proficiency using a personal computer is required. Use of personal vehicle, valid driver's license, state mandated auto insurance and good driving record are required. Our Company

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Email resumes to: gperry@hometownlife.com. Attn: Sales Please specify the territory you are interested in on the subject line of your email. EEOC

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LOCAL NEWS

GARDEN & NATURE

Send material for the Garden & Nature Calendar to Sharon Dargay, **Observer & Eccentric**, sdargay@hometownlife.com, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226.

Butterflies

Brenda Dziedzic, owner of Brenda's Butterfly Habitat and author of "Learn about Butterflies in the Garden," will demonstrate egg bleaching techniques to prevent disease in home-raised at the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, (SEM-BA), 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Diane Pruden from Monarch Watch also will talk about tagging efforts to track monarch butterflies. Questions? Call 734-223-5510 or sembabutterfly-.com.

Outdoor survival

Survival expert Mary Vance will show how to build a fire, use a bow drill, make a debris shelter and extract pure water from the earth during Outdoor Survival Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, in Heritage Park, located between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. She'll also lead a wild edibles hike through the park. Participants should bring a bag lunch and water, all other materials will be provided. The fee is \$25 per person, for ages 16 and up. Advanced registration is required and available at https:// recreg.fhgov.com or at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.. Participants should meet at the Nature Center. Call 248-477-1135 or e-mail asmith@fhgov.com for

more information. **English Gardens**

English Gardens stores in metro Detroit offer a variety of programs and workshops for gardeners.

» Enjoy shopping, inspirations, food, wine and music in a gardenlike setting from 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, at the West Bloomfield store. Pre-registration is required.

» Learn how to use plants for screening at a free presentation, 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 24, at all locations.

» Find out which plants provide yearround color and learn to create interest in your garden every season, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, at all locations. The presentation is free.

» Learn the basics of landscape design at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, at all stores, in a free presentation.

» Get tips for fall lawn care and learn how to keep it healthy through the winter, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at all stores.

Area English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, 734-332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, 313-278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, 248-280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; 248-851-



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BORST, **ROBERT C.**

Age 94 of Utica, Michigan passed away August 16, 2013. He was born October 24, 1918 in High-

land Park, Michigan. Mr. Borst was the previous owner of Borst Lincoln Mercury in Troy. He was a WWII Veteran. A member of the Birmingham Country Club and the Atlantis Country Club, West Palm Beach, Florida. He is predeceased by his wife Mary Borst. Leaving behind dear family and friends including, An-nette (Gary) Rudzewicz, Deborah (Danial) Jensenius, Witney (Matthew) Schmit, and William Begley. Visitation Monday 4-9 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd. (3 blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica. In state Tuesday 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 40501 Hayes, Sterling Heights, until time of Mass 11:00 a.m. Memorials can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Share a memory at: sullivanfuneraldirectors.com





FISHER, LAURA J.

Age 56, of Canton, died August 14, 2013. Laura is the beloved and devoted mother of Alicia Hall, Charles Fisher and Heather Buchanan; loving daughter of Roland and the late Bonnie Wright; dear sister of Randall Wright, Martin Wright, Debra Godin, Starla Adly, Julie Marino and Eric Wright; grandmother of 15, great grandmother of one. Sadly, in addition to her mother, Laura was preceded in death by her brother, Edward. Funeral Service Monday, August 19, 2:00 pm, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Visitation Sunday 2-8 pm. Interment North Farmington

Cemetery

discretion.

at a later date.



DRUMM, **LOUISE LEONA** KAISER

Born in Detroit, Michigan on August 18, 1917. Departed to meet God and her loved ones on August 6, 2013 just 12 days be-fore her 96th birthday. She resided in Birmingham and Beverly Hills Michigan since 1957. She was a member of Embury Methodist Church in Birmingham. Louise "Lee" Drumm was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, professional, and friend. She dedicated her life to the service of others. The major focus of Lee's life was raising and guiding her children and grandchild. She provided every opportunity for her children to be well-rounded and responsible persons of integrity. She was also actively engaged in her community, both as a caring and in-volved neighbor and friend and

7506.

In the moonlight Listen for nocturnal

animals, observe the night sky, and heighten your senses during a Full Moon Friday Night Hike in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile Roads, Farmington Hills. The hike is 9-10 p.m. Aug. 23, starting at the Nature Center in the park. Hikes are designed for families and children, 5 and up. No flashlights are needed. Cost is \$3 per person. Pre-register at recreg.fhgov.com. You also can pay at the event, however space is limited. In case of inclement weather, the hike will be canceled and refunds given. The Nature Center also offers a campfire from 7-9 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 23. Marshmallows, s'mores and beverages will be sold. Call the Nature Center at 248-477-1135.

Master gardener

Interested in becoming a master gardener? Classes will run from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3 to Dec. 3, at the Wayne **RESA Auditorium**, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Cost for the training is \$300. To register, visit msue.anr.msu.edu and click on events to navigate to the master gardener program.

Bible garden

The Louis and Fay Woll Memorial Bible Garden, is open sunrise to sunset from springfall, on the campus of Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The garden contains plants mentioned in the Bible and is meant to serve as a place of inner reflection, of education, and for social and community gatherings. It is available for group tours as well as for informal individual visitation. Group tours can be arranged for any day of the week except Saturday. If interested in a group tour of the garden, along with a visit to the sanctuary with a Beth Ahm docent, call Rabbi Steven Rubenstein at 248-851-6880, Ext. 17, or email ravsteven@cbahm.org. Garden

visits are free, although donations are accepted. www.wollbiblegarden.org.

MILESTONES

WEDDING

Theresa **Bailey-Nathan** Weidner

Theresa Bailey and Nathan Weidner were married Saturday, Aug. 10, at St. Norbert Catholic Church in Florissant, Mo. The Rev. Jim Mitulski officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Timothy Bailey and Joan Smykowski of Livonia. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Weidner of Florissant, Mo.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her mother and father and given away by her father. During the ceremony, the bridegroom's godmother, Karen Petrumic of Chicago, Ill., read from 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a. Sue Whittaker, the bride's godmother, of Big Bend, Wisc., read from Genesis 1:26-28, 31.

Brain Baker of Florissant, Mo., was best man. Usher-groomsmen were Marcus Weller of California, Nicholas Bergeron of Detroit, Thomas Friedoff of Florissant, Mo., and Ryan Diel of Eureka, Mo. Elizabeth Bailey of

Dearborn was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Audrey Jackson of Plymouth, Kingerly O'Brien of Mt. Pleasant and Lindsay McCarthy of Virginia.

Theresa and Nathan Weidner

The unofficial ring barriers for the ceremony where Joey Grass of Big Bend, Wisc., Alexander and Benjamin Ritchey of Ellicott City, Md., and David Whittaker of Iowa City, Iowa.

The reception was held at the Sheraton Saint Louis. After cocktails on the hotel's 13thfloor patio, overlooking the famed Gateway Arch of Saint Louis, the wedding party moved to the banquet hall. The couple selected decorated doughnuts instead of a wedding cake.

The bride is a graduate of Wayne State University. She is employed by the Missouri University of Science and Technology in the Department of Global Learning. The groom, also a graduate of Wayne State University, earned a Ph.D. and is an assistant professor of industrial psychology at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The couple will take a honeymoon trip to Hawaii in spring 2014. They reside in Rolla, Mo.

WEDDING

Bader-Moore

Pete Bader and Kristy Moore were married Saturday, July 20, at The Lost Arrow Resort on the Tittabawassee River/Secord Lake in Gladwin County.

The couple was joined by family and close friends for the weekend event, which featured the wedding ceremony, dinner, dancing, boat rides and bonfires.

The groom is the son of the late Daniel J. Bader and is employed as the senior director of operations at Laurel Park Place in Livonia.



Kristy and Pete Bader of Livonia

The bride is the daughter of David Moore of Livonia and Jane Moore of Wixom and is employed as a global relocation specialist at Corrigan International in Farmington Hills. The couple resides in

Livonia.

HITCHCOCK, LARRY

July 26, 2013 age 76 of Garden City and Westland. Beloved husband of Karen. Loving father of John (Laura) Hitchcock, James Hitchcock, Deborah Fox, Shawn (Michael) McKay, Michael Connolly, and the late Maureen Sievertson. Also survived by several grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. Life member of the Plymouth Rock Masonic Lodge. Gathering Saturday August 24th 1 PM until the 2 PM Memorial Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Assn

To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



Home, Brighton, 810-229-2905 SHOEMAKER, MIRIAM LOVENIA **ADKINS FAULKNER** 92, passed August 16, 2013. www.oakesandnichols.com

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248.477.4460

May peace be with you in this time of **sorrow**.

Memorial gifts suggested to the as a citizen who sought to en-Fisher family to be used at their hance the lives of others. She was actively involved in the heeney-sundquist.com PTA, Pinewood Derby, Cub HEENEY-SUNDOUIST Scouts, Girl Scouts, Groves Big GABEL, JEFFREY T.

Farmington Hills

Band Jazz Series, and numerous school events for both of her children. She also worked as a volunteer for Dr. Jonas Salk's in-Age 48, of Farmington Hills, itial polio vaccine campaign. died at his home on August 13, service to others also took Lee's 2013. He is survived by his chilthe form of providing expert leadership in her work. She helpdren, Audrey and Cameron; his mother, Ruth Gabel; brother, ed others in need, and mentored Larry Gabel; sister, Laura Gabel; and trained dozens of workers to niece, Madison, and many aunts, become skilled artisans, craftsuncles, cousins and dear friends. men, and productive members of He was preceded in death by his the community. Lee overcame father. Clarence Gabel, in 2012. incredible challenges in her life A Memorial Service will be held as a child of the Great Depression, a wife of a WWII veteran, Condolences may be left at: and as an early widow. She was one of the women who assumed LynchFuneralDirectors.com For further information please a supervisory industrial position during WWII. She also worked phone Lynch & Sons Funeral for the Harrison Luggage Company where she helped to develop some of the first airline carryon luggage. Lee graduated from Lincoln High School in Warren, Michigan. She also attended Business College. She was an incredibly intelligent who went back to work after raising her children. She worked at Amber Management Company in Royal Oak for approximately 20 years. At Amber she supervised a large staff and oversaw the maintenance of all their properties throughout Southeast Michigan. Lee was married to Ralph J. Drumm for 31 years until his death in 1971. She moved and was at his side in Corona, California when he returned injured from service in the Pacific during WWII. Her parents were John and Maryann Kaiser. She was predeceased by all of her siblings, Bernadine Cain, and John, Norbert, and Werner Kaiser. Her children are Brenda Drumm Kidd (Clyde) and Mel Drumm (Elizabeth). Her beloved granddaughter is Amy Drumm. She has many nieces and neph-

woman

ews in both the Drumm and Kaiser families. Lee was a very strong and independent woman, yet she was also charming and amazing. People loved spending time with her, and she enriched many lives. She will always be remembered and loved, especially by her children. Funeral service was held Saturday, August 10th at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-549-0500. Interment White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial tributes to Focus: HOPE, 1355 Oakman Blvd, Detroit, MI 48238 appreciated. view obituary & share memories DesmondFuneralHome.com

J DESMOND SON

St. George Church's **Greek Fest** Sept. 6-8

Opening-day ceremon-ies for the YA'SSOO Greek Festival are Friday, Sept. 6, when St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 43816 Woodward Ave., is saluted for 85 years of service to the community and world. Festivities began at

noon with The Lighting of the Torch by Jack Weiner, CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital, in front of the hospital's renovated surgical wing.

"Olympic runner" Harry Birden will carry the torch, running a short distance from the hospital to the church grounds, where attending dignitaries will witness the flaming of what may be the "World's Largest Saganaki."

There, Sen. George Pappageorge, R-Troy, will present a proclamation from the state of Michigan to St. George Church for its continuing commitment and dedication to both its religious community as well as the community at large.

Hours for the St. George YA'SSOO Festival are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 6-7, and from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8. Visit yassoogreekfestival.com.

ENGAGEMENT

Haddad-Darwiche

Katie Marie Haddad and Fadi Hussein Darwiche announce their engagement. The bride-to-be,

daughter of Kathy Haddad and Nabil Haddad, both of Livonia, is an actress and model in Las Vegas, Nev. A huge car fan, she also owns two show and race cars.

Her fiance, son of Mona and Hussein Darwiche of Beirut, Lebanon, grew up in Lebanon. He owns a car repair shop in Las Ve-



Katie Haddad and Fadi Darwiche

gas, Nev., and shares Katie's love of cars. A September 2013 wedding is planned at Burton Manor in Livonia.

ENGAGEMENT

Pankow-Redington

Mr.and Mrs. Michael Pankow of South Lyon and Mr. and Mrs. James Redington of Livonia are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Ashley Elizabeth Pankow and Robert Andrew Redington. The happy couple

plans to marry in October 2014.



Elizabeth Pankow and Robert Redington

ENGAGEMENT

Witkowski-Farquhar

Niki Witkowski and Ross Farquhar announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Larry and Debbie Witkowski of Livonia. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is employed by EOS Solutions in Rochester.

The groom is the son of Maureen Valeri of Farmington Hills and Eric Farquhar of Livonia. He is a graduate of Michigan State Univer-



Ross Farquhar and Niki Witkowski

sity and is employed by Domino's Headquarters in Ann Arbor.

The wedding and reception will be held in April 2014 at the Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion.

B9 (CP) SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MEDIA** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM 313-222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

To your health: Student, family show there's life after diabetes diagnosis

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Jeff Hewlett, 19, of Novi was diagnosed at age 4 with Type 1 diabetes

"It was certainly a shock at first," said Hewlett, now a sophomore at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a Northville High School graduate. "It certainly never slowed down anything I did."

He grew up with brother Joey, 17, a Northville High senior, and parents Rich and the late Chris Hewlett. Chris died in 2012 following a lengthy battle with ovarian cancer.

The family decided in the late 1990s, when Jeff was diagnosed, to do fundraising for JDRF (formerly the Juvenile **Diabetes** Research Foundation). This year's golf outing. their fifth, raised some \$65,000, with a total of more than \$280,000 raised by the outings.

The family is in the "Noville" area, where people have a Novi mailing address, but children attend Northville schools. "At that time, we didn't have much experience with Type 1," Rich recalled of his son's diagnosis.

They got involved with Jackson friends in the JDRF Western Michigan Chapter, with a walk that included former University of Michigan football coaches Bo Schembechler and Lloyd Carr. Rich Hewlett played under Schembechler from 1979-83.

They later put togeth-

University of Michigan football coach Brady Hoke (left) introduces Rich and Jeff Hewlett during a fundraiser.

er their own team for an Ann Arbor fundraiser, rapidly becoming the top team. In 2006-07, they were asked about hosting an event for the U-M **Comprehensive Diabetes** Center, where Jeff gets his care.

"There was a real interest in getting those two organizations more closely aligned," said Rich, an attorney with the Grand Rapids-based Varnum law firm. Varnum has been the presenting sponsor for their golf outing the last three times.

The family appreci-

Advertisement

ates support of the Northville-Novi community. Rich serves on the JDRF board for southeast Michigan.

They transferred Jeff's care to U-M in adult endocrinology and the younger Hewlett is in an upcoming clinical trial there.

The study is funded by the JDRF and led by Dr. Massimo Pietropaolo of U-M. Dr. Max, as he's called, is studying the pancreas in those with long-term diabetes, seeing if it can be stimulated to produce insulin and cut down on injections.

"I've always been comfortable with the injections," said Jeff, who generally gives himself four a day. He also checks his blood sugar with a finger prick.

"It's just something that has been an added aspect of my life," added Jeff, who played high school football and bas-ketball. "It hasn't really changed anything for me.

He volunteered a couple of summers back at U-M and now works in a renal pathology lab there, a job he'll con-

tinue part time when school resumes. Jeff is taking mostly U-M prerequisites now, not yet decided on a major.

"It's something we are very personally vested in," he said, with his father agreeing they like reaching out to others who don't have their resources.

The Hewletts have a website, www.swingtocure diabetes.org, on their efforts. They also recommend the JDRF website, www.jdrf.org, especially for those newly diagnosed.

"We do feel blessed," Rich said. "We are in a situation where we can hopefully show there are ways to live with it. Jeff's always been a great ambassador."

Their supporters include U-M coach Brady Hoke, former coach Carr, his former teammates, Jeff's coaches and teachers, Rich's clients, friends and family. They had to skip the golf outing one year, due to Chris' illness and the economy.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com



Hit Me With Your Best Shot Keeping children healthy with immunizations

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



For most parents, childhood vaccines can be both a source of reassurance and anxiety. Dr. Nicholas Packey, of the Garden City Hospital Center for Family Medicine, explains how vaccines provide invaluable protection with little risk for side effects.

Dr. Packey **Family Medicine**

Q: Why should I have my child immunized if all the other kids in school are immunized?

A: It is true that a single child's chance of catching a disease is low if everyone else is immunized. But your child is also exposed to people other than just those in school. And if one person thinks about skipping vaccines, chances are others are thinking the same thing. Each child who isn't immunized gives these highly contagious diseases more chance to spread.

- Q: Do immunizations cause autism?
- A: Numerous studies have found no link between vaccines and autism. Likewise, a groundbreaking report from the Institute of Medicine found that thimerosal, an organic mercury compound used as a preservative in vaccines since the 1930s, does not cause autism. Still, some parents have opted not to have their children immunized, putting them at great risk of contracting deadly diseases.

The Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine, especially, has come under fire despite many scientific reports indicating that there's no clear evidence linking the vaccine to autism. In fact, in 2004 a long-disputed 1998 study that suggested a possible link between autism and the MMR vaccine was retracted and rejected by all major health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

- Q: Are there dangerous side effects or reactions to childhood vaccines?
- A: Fortunately, severe side effects or reactions to vaccines are few and rare. The biggest concern is anaphylaxis, an allergic reaction that can cause an itchy rash, throat swelling, and low blood pressure. Depending on the vaccine, side effects such as anaphylaxis can occur in 1 out of several hundred thousand, to 1 in a million vaccines.
- Q: Is it dangerous for children to have so many vaccines administered at once?
- A: Available scientific data shows that simultaneous vaccination with multiple vaccines has no adverse effects on the normal childhood immune system. A number of studies have been conducted, and have shown that recommended vaccines are as effective in combination as they are individually, and such combinations carry no greater risk for adverse side effects. There is no evidence to suggest the recommended childhood vaccines overload the immune system.

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JOBS



The kids are going back to school; should I?

Susan Ricker, CareerBuilder Writer

hometownlife.com

It's now commonplace for job seekers to consider going back to school to advance their career. But is this a practical move for everybody? Not always. There are different industry standards for education, and a specific degree or certification may not always move you forward.

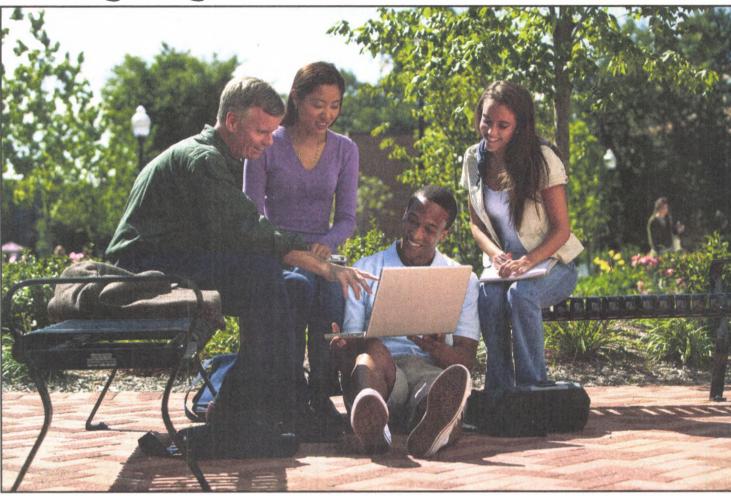
While back-to-school commercials may already be playing on TV, avoid getting sucked in and decide for yourself if going back to school is the right move for your career. Karen Southall Watts, business coach, consultant and author, provides the questions you should ask yourself when considering further education, as well as the answers to best to determine your options.

How much do you know about the job potential for this course of study?

How much do you know about local opportunities, the potential need to relocate to find work and the realistic time from entry-level wages to getting a promotion? Many students enroll in "hot" fields such as nursing, for example, only to find that they are unsuited to the physical demands of the job or that there are few local employers. Older students often have family obligations that mean they cannot pick up and follow the jobs after graduation.

What is your (true) comfort level with technology?

Many schools are pushing



courses online, using online registration and grading systems, and making libraries and other resources accessible via the school website. Some older students are not comfortable with intense computer use, although the stereotype of older students being computerphobic and younger ones being digital natives is a bit deceptive. In students of any age, the ability to use things such as Facebook, email or a smartphone does not equal the ability to do online research, use computers to generate documents and presentations, or interact with online classroom software packages.

Are you overloading your schedule?

Adult students tend to be very goal-oriented and want to finish education and training as quickly as possible in order to get into the job market. This desire to hurry up may manifest in an overloaded and unrealistic schedule. Students who are depending upon financial aid sometimes feel pressured into taking the maximum amount of hours possible. Combine these issues with family and job commitments, and a student can start an academic term in a "no win" situation -- there simply are not enough hours in the day to do what he or she wants.

Is there another option besides a full degree?

If a student is already midcareer, he or she may need only a few courses or workshops to get to the next level. Rather than shifting from one field into something completely unrelated, it may be wiser to find ways to leverage past experience and pivot to something that doesn't require starting from zero. It is essential for potential students to talk to someone in their chosen field and not just admissions advisers when making the decision to return to school and selecting a course of study.

Education can be a great

option for those who have researched their career options and know which direction they'd like to take. However, if schooling isn't a smart career move for you, there are other ways to gain momentum in your career and opportunities that may lead to bigger roles down the road.

Susan Ricker is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.



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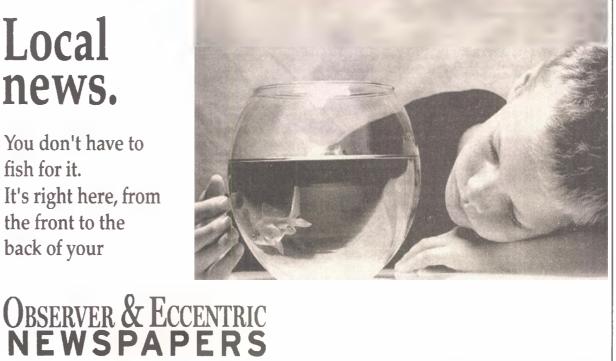


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Car Report

Advertising Feature

Mazda plans to drive new Mazda6 top of midsize heap



hometownlife.com

Because it's a scrappy brand, Mazda has held on in the U.S. market without the vehicles or marketing muscle to pose a serious threat to Toyota's and Honda's dominance of the small-car market

By Dale Buss

over the last few decades.

But increasingly, Mazda does have the cars to compete in the hottest segments, like the latest version of the CX-5 SUV and, now, the all-new Mazda6 mid-size sedan. And Mazda's marketing has wisely moved beyond the "zoom-zoom" mantra to a more differentiated pitch based on its SkyActiv sub-brand of "light-weighting" technologies and nameplate-centric campaigns that take advantage of the better vehicles.

"We realized long ago that we're not going to be able to out-shout any of our big competitors, so we have to be more clever than they are, in unique and different ways," Jeremy Barnes, Mazda's director of PR and brand experience in the U.S., told me. "Our biggest challenge as a brand is not that people think poorly of our brand but that they don't think immediately of us."

This problem has become mostly a marketing challenge, because Mazda vehicles themselves sure are taking on their share of the responsibility for a turnaround. The new Mazda6 touts highly acclaimed new styling and the product line's fullest expression yet of SkyActiv technologies such as a more fuel-efficient engine and transmission and lightweight new materials and components. In fact, the car is completely new from the ground up, Barnes said, and is entirely a Mazda creation; the Mazda6 it replaces was a joint product of Mazda and its erstwhile partner, Ford.

The midsize sedan represents a huge departure from the old model, the second vehicle to flow from an engineering program that Mazda launched after the alliance with Ford ended in 2010. Mazda executives invested heavily in new engines and transmissions and lightweight materials under SkyActiv.

Mazda6 combines high fuel economy with a sportiness that separates the car, and the brand, from other Japanese companies' compact offerings and holds up well against other competitors including a redesigned Ford Fusion, Hyundai Sonata, Kia Optima and Volkswagen Passat.

The interior of the car already has won awards for its appearance and the use of quality materials. But some reviewers have complained about cargo space and interior storage niches being too small and about a 5.8-inch touch screen, which is smaller and less sensitive to the touch than some competitors'.



The CX-5 was the first new vehicle launched under the SkyActiv umbrella.

The just-launched new 2014 Mazda6 provides worthy competition in the compact segment.

Interestingly, Mazda also plans to take the plunge into clean-diesel technology with a new diesel engine that will be available on the Mazda6 later this year. This will provide yet another "green" way that Mazda can differentiate its worthy new compact from the competition.

The other early product of Mazda's goit-alone engineering is the CX-5, a new version of the compact SUV that just ranked highest of any nameplate in the segment in the new J.D. Power study of shopper appeal.

For Mazda6, the brand launched its "Take6 Ride and Drive Program" sequen-

> tially in 15 major U.S. cities (though not Detroit) beginning this month in Seattle and ending in November. The idea of this "experiential" initiative is for Mazda representatives to partner with restaurants where the brand's target Millennial demographic just happens to be waiting for a table. These "brand ambassadors" offer to take

up just six minutes of their idle time with a quick pitch about, and a test drive of, the Mazda6—which conveniently is sitting at the curb. Mazda offers gift cards or free dessert at the restaurant as a lure.

"They'll have gone out for dinner, and our goal is to catch these people where they are rather than making them go where the caris," like a dealership, Barnes said. "We're trying to drive interest, get people behind the wheel of the Mazda6, understand what makes it unique and different — and do it in a way that's comfortable."

"It's an opportunity for them to see that the car does drive wonderfully. And when they're in the market to go shopping for a new car, if they think of putting Mazda6 on their shopping list, then we've done our job."

As a final reward for going along in Take6, Mazda gives each diner a Mazda6branded spice grinder. "It's because food is typically a passion point for our kind of customers," Barnes explained. "The Mazda logo will stare at you. It's another memory device for when you're buying your next car."

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